



March 28, 2018

FOUR TIPS FOR EASTER WORSHIP

On Sunday, we will worship at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Here are some tips for Easter morning.

1. Sing the proclamation.

There are certain kinds of truth that need to be sung. They can't just be written down as statements on a blank sheet of paper, because they need to engage our hearts as much as our minds. The truth of Easter is best approached through stories, the liturgy of prayers, and singing Alleluia with the pipe organ, brass, and timpani. On Easter, we lead with our hearts.

2. Engage your mind, too.

Leading with our hearts doesn't mean we check our brains at the door. It's easy to list questions and doubts about the resurrection, but our minds are capable of more than looking for holes in the logic. For starters, we can doubt our doubts. Are there mistakes in our modern assumptions about what the scriptures tell? Have we dismissed the first generation of Christians as naïve? What was the spark that lit the church on fire?

3. Be grateful for the crowds.

Easter is an important day in church, so it's no wonder so many people make sure to be there. It may mean it is harder to park or choose your favorite pew, but it's your choice to be happy or upset about it.

4. Welcome the Children! Here are some great tips from Carolyn Brown's blog "*Worshipping with Children*," but they're good for all ages:

- Get there early enough to get a seat where your child can see and hear easily.
- Point out and even visit the flowers and other Easter decorations. (They can be hard to see across a big room.) Identify the symbols. Remember Easter lilies are shaped like trumpets, announcing Jesus is alive.
- Stand short children on their pew when the congregation stands so they can see more easily and can sing and speak in the middle of the sound rather than under it.
- Help children sing every "Alleluia!" in the Easter hymns even if they can't read the other words. Together count the alleluias in one song or in the whole service (remember, we have sung no alleluias during the entire season of Lent).
- After the service, take a picture of your family in the sanctuary or outside with the church building in the background to remind yourselves you were here.
- Remember, you are creating memories. Some of them will be warm and wonderful. Others will lead to family eye-rolling stories told for years to come. All shape lives.

Peace,