

RESURRECTION MADISON

Winter Meets its Death

Wrong will be right, when Aslan comes in sight,
At the sound of his roar, sorrows will be no more,
When he bares his teeth, winter meets its death,
And when he shakes his mane, we shall have spring again.

— C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*



Always winter, but never Christmas.

This was C.S. Lewis's imaginative way of describing Narnia in the absence of Aslan. Under the tyranny

Unbelief is meeting its death as people are turning or returning to faith in Jesus. Loneliness is meeting its

of the White Witch it's always winter, but never Christmas. Christmas is the welcome interruption of good news, of joy, of love in the dead of winter. It's what makes winter bearable as it reminds you of the joy of spring that is to come. As Madison now fully emerges from a harsh winter, I am happy to report that Aslan is on the move. God is at work. And where he is at work winter is meeting its death, replaced by the beauty and goodness of spring.

death as people are finding deep and true community in the church. Meaninglessness is meeting its death as people are finding identity and purpose in a story much bigger than themselves. Isolation is meetings its death as people are gaining strength to be honest about their struggles and to allow others to walk with them. This is how God is at work at Resurrection, and we are like kids on Christmas morning. It is what makes winter bearable.

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We Survived This!

First of all, we survived this, and we are quite proud of our Southern selves. Yes, that's our house. And that's the snow mound from snowplowing and shoveling. Don't worry, it is melted now and the grass is a luscious green (even if filled with weeds).

Easter Sunday

Res Pres had a very meaningful Holy Week this year. Here we are celebrating the centerpiece of our faith—the resurrection of Jesus from the dead—and also celebrating 9 new members!



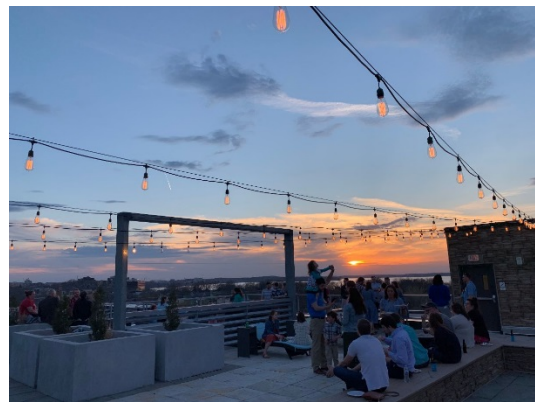


Easter Baptism!

We had the privilege of baptizing Ellen into Christ and into his church on Easter, and to serve her her first communion. She is now sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism and marked as Christ's own forever.

Easter Party

Our people love to party together, whether at our annual UnSAD party this past March in bold defiance of seasonal affective disorder (or SAD), or at our rooftop Easter feast. This is a way the love of God is embodied through his church.



Partnership with RUF

Our partner ministry on the campus of UW, RUF, just finished their best semester yet. And students are some of our best members, integrated into every aspect of church life.

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Stories of Resurrection

During the Easter season, we had members share "stories of resurrection" during our worship services. These were stories about how God is bringing life out of death in the lives of our community. I would like to share an excerpt from Kaleb's story:

Today I will be talking about my struggle with loneliness in my adult life.

Since my junior year in college, my mindset has been "if I get to the age of 80 I should be able to look back on my life with a sense of accomplishment and pride."

And maybe even more importantly, I wanted others to recognize that my life had been remarkable. My biggest fear is being insignificant.

Soon after I graduated college I decided to act on my desire for success and I set off to make 80 year old me proud. Feeble would be the word I would use to describe my faith. My walk was filled with doubt, shame towards Christianity and shame of myself for having doubt and shame. After having that mindset for so long, it gave way towards a sort of hardness about God because I was emotionally exhausted from dealing with it all.

I moved to a new city where success and significance could be found, because when I achieved that I could finally be proud of myself and my issues would cease to exist.

The old demons crept back again in my new city and I decided that moving back here to my home, surrounded by family and loved ones would get me back to okay... but at that point I didn't have anything in me to accept love, or return it.

A sense of despair and meaninglessness was sinking in deeply, I was drawing more into myself. Then my new biggest fear became getting to the age of 80 and looking back on a life filled with loneliness.

A few months ago, I was at my lowest, and a few months ago I started coming to church here. Divine intervention got me to come when I was at my weakest because I didn't have an ounce of willpower to come on my own accord.

Slowly, but surely, that deep seeded loneliness was being replaced with belonging and love and humility. Humility to see that I'm not the most important thing in the world, humility to recognize that I needed mental health counseling, and humility to see I need the church because I can't do this life on my own.

All of my issues haven't just dissolved, they are still a struggle, but Christ has given me the confidence to know that they no longer control me. Jesus has reset my eyes outside of myself to see that I AM part of something significant, his local church. And the beauty is that the pressure of being great has been alleviated. I can breath easy and live with a peace about who I am in Christ. My fixation is less and less on when I am 80 and more and more on heavenly things. And I know I'm no longer alone.

I have been derelict in my communication with you as the growing work load of pastor tends to supersede the work load of planter. Forgive me, for this does not represent my affection and gratitude for the supporters that make stories like

Kaleb's possible. As an update on where we are in the big picture of planting, we have set five marks of being fully planted:

1. **Launch public worship with a core group of committed people.** We are 1.5 years into public worship, and, in a very transient city, we are maintaining a worshipping community of 60-80 adults, and growing.
2. **Find a long-term facility in urban and university Madison.** Our facility team is exploring some creative mixed use space opportunities, but we are happily renting from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, who are excellent hosts and partners.
3. **Train and install our own local leaders (what Presbyterians call elders).** Training begins this Fall with a goal of installing leaders in 2020.
4. **Become self-sustaining financially.** We are currently about 40% internally funded, and we have set a goal of reaching 60% by year end. Therefore, we remain dependent upon you and other external supports to sustain this work while we grow into maturity.
5. **Plan our next church plant.** We hope to create a movement of church plants in the city. There is plenty of opportunity and we have plenty of dreams.

We are so incredibly grateful for your prayers and gifts and encouragements that are helping plant a gospel-centered church in urban and university Madison to engage not only this generation, but the generations to come with the good news of life in Christ.

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For those who want to follow the Grimsley's mission of planting a church in urban and university Madison,
WI

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