

Joint Base Myer—Henderson Hall

National Military Easter Sunrise Service



**March 31, 2024
Memorial Amphitheater
Arlington National Cemetery**



**CHAPLAIN,
MAJOR GENERAL
RANDALL E. KITCHENS**



Ch, Maj Gen Randall E. Kitchens is the Chief of Chaplains at the Department of the Air Force, the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia and also serves as the second Chief of Chaplains of the United States Space Force. As a member of the special staff of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and Chief of Space Operations, he establishes guidance and provides advice on all matters pertaining to the religious and moral welfare of Air and Space Force personnel. He is responsible for establishing effective programs to meet the religious needs of Airmen, Guardians and their dependents. As Chief of Chaplains, he is the senior pastor for more than 770,000 active duty, Guard, Reserve, and civilian forces serving in the U.S. and overseas. He leads the Department of the Air Force Chaplain Corps of approximately 2,100 chaplains and religious affairs airmen from the active duty and Air Reserve components. As a member of the Armed Forces Chaplain Board, he and his colleagues advise the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff on religious, ethical and quality-of-life concerns.

Ch, Maj Gen Kitchens was ordained as a Southern Baptist minister in 1983. He entered the Air Force Reserves in 1987 and served as both a Chaplain Candidate and Chaplain. Ch, Maj Gen Kitchens then entered the active duty Air Force as a Chaplain in February 1993. He has served as Protestant Chaplain, Installation Chaplain, Unit Chaplain, Senior Protestant Chaplain, Wing Chaplain, Staff Chaplain, Deputy Commandant, Academy Chaplain, and Command Chaplain. Prior to his current position, Ch, Maj Gen Kitchens served as the Deputy Chief of Chaplains at the Department of the Air Force, the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia.

EASTER DECLARATION:

Leader: He is risen!

People: *He is risen indeed!*

RESPONSIVE READING

Leader: But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death.

People: *Because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.*

Leader: But thanks be to God!

People: *He gives us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ.*

Leader: He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?"

People: *Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself.*

Leader: But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead.

ALL: ***I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.***



Prelude The United States Army Band, Pershing's Own

*Church Call Sergeant Major Troy McKay
The United States Army Band, Pershing's Own

*Call to Worship & Welcome Chaplain (Colonel) Timothy Maracle
Command Chaplain, Joint Task Force NCR & MDW

*Invocation Chaplain (Major General) William Green Jr.
U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains, Office of the Chief of Chaplains

*Congregational Hymn "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"
Commander Peter Dietz, Chaplain Corps
Chaplain Religious Enrichment Development Operation (CREDO)
The United States Army Band, Pershing's Own

Responsive Reading Chaplain Commander Peter Dietz
CREDO Chaplain, Naval District of Washington

First Lesson Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Chaplain, Brigadier General Trent Davis
Air Force Deputy Chief of Chaplains, Air Force Chaplain Corps (AF/HC)

***PLEASE STAND**



*Congregational Hymn

"He Lives"

Commander Peter Dietz, Chaplain Corps
CREDO Chaplain, Naval District of Washington
The United States Army Band, Pershing's Own

Second Lesson

John 20:1-18

Chaplain (Brigadier General) Jack Stumme
U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Chaplains, Office of the Chief of Chaplains

Musical Selection

"In Christ Alone"

The United States Army Band, Pershing's Own

Message

Chaplain, Major General Randall Kitchens
Air Force Chief of Chaplains, Air Force Chaplain Corps (AF/HC)

Response

"Hallelujah Chorus"

The United States Army Band, Pershing's Own

*Benediction

Chaplain Captain Judy Malana
Command Chaplain, Naval District of Washington

Postlude

The United States Army Band, Pershing's Own

"CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY"

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply. Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Dying once He all doth save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!



"HE LIVES"

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today;
I know that He is living whatever men may say;
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him, He's always near

Refrain:

He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way.
He lives! He lives! salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives:
He lives within my heart.

In all the world around me I see His loving care,
And though my heart grows weary, I never will despair;
I know that He is leading thru all the stormy blast,
The day of His appearing will come at last. (refrain)

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian! Lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek Him, The help of all who find,
None other is so loving, So good and kind. (refrain)

History of the Easter Sunrise Service

The concept of an early morning time of celebration of Christ's resurrection is found in all four Gospels. Each of them note that women came to Jesus' tomb early in the morning and found the stone rolled away from the entrance and the grave empty. The sunrise service celebrates the first accounts of Jesus' victory over death.

Though it may seem ancient, the tradition of the Easter sunrise service dates back only as far as 1732, when, after an all-night prayer vigil, Moravians in Herrnhut, Germany marched to the local cemetery and sang hymns of thanksgiving as the sun rose. The sunrise service quickly became a tradition and was celebrated in the American Colonies early in the 1700s.

The National Military Easter Sunrise Service has nearly 100 years of tradition with Arlington National Cemetery. It began in 1927 as a ministry of the Knights Templar, a Masonic organization which conducted the Easter Sunrise Service until 1980. The event has been attended by presidents, senior American government officials, military members from all branches, and countless civilian members of the American public. As an example of the event's popularity and impact on people's lives, upwards of 9,000 people attended the historic annual event during the 1950s. While annual attendance has dropped, the message of hope and celebration continues each year as we see the sun rise over the apse of Memorial Amphitheater and the local trees begin to bud and bloom.

