

Easter Sunday

HE IS RISEN!

Join with the Disciples and let your soul exclaim: "Alleluia! The Lord is Risen Indeed!" (Lk 24:34)

Monday 4/13/20—John 20:1-18

Why did Peter and the other disciple walk away? They raced to the tomb after hearing Mary's story. They dared walk into the dark tomb. Why did they turn away and walk home? Read again John 20:8-10. Even when we see and believe, sometimes it is so hard to understand. Take a walk or sit outside today and remember Peter. Imagine you were with him today walking back from the tomb, what would you say to him? What would you do? How might you share hope and love with another when it is so hard to understand the current situation.

Tuesday 4/14/20—Matthew 28:1-10

The author of the gospel of Matthew gives a dynamic and illuminating vision of the women coming to the tomb. The earth shakes, magnificent angels move the stone, and the guards and women are awe struck. The excitement is overwhelming, and the women accept an important task to "hurry, go and tell!" When does Jesus show up? Not with all the lights, angels, and voices. Jesus just runs into them on their path and rush to tell the disciples. How is Jesus showing up to you today? Are you looking for him in your ordinary tasks? While you are folding laundry or preparing dinner? This reading reminds us that Jesus speaks to us in simple ways.

Wednesday 4/15/20—Mark 16:1-8

Mark's gospel account of the empty tomb starts with the three specific women attending to the important cultural rituals and traditions of death and grief. They were following their customs to grieve their beloved Jesus. It is in their rituals, that they saw the angel and heard what happened to Jesus. How did your rituals and traditions of Easter change this year due to the pandemic? Write down what rituals and traditions you find most important? What new acts or rituals did you try this year? How did Jesus meet you in those new experiences?

Thursday 4/16/20—Luke 24:1-12

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen" (Lk 24:5). A powerful and soul-searching question that is only found in the gospel of Luke. Even when all seems hopeless, the women are reminded to look and find Jesus in the living. Go outside or look out the window and search for signs of living. It might be a bud on a tree branch, flowers emerging, birds flying, or chalked messages on the sidewalk. How is Jesus speaking new life into you? Offer up a prayer of thanksgiving and ask Jesus to reveal new life and hope in your home, church, community and world.

Friday 4/17/20—Challenge

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Write this verse on a notecard and place it above each sink in your home. Challenge yourself to live out this verse every time you wash your hands (that should be a lot of prayer and praise!) For the 20 seconds of washing lift up a prayer or a praise to Jesus. Amen and get washing!

Saturday 4/18/20—Prayer

"O God, our light, our beauty, our rest: In the resurrection of your Son you have brought us into your new creation. Form us into your people and order our lives in you; through Christ our Lord. Amen. Alleluia." (UMC Book of Worship, 399)