

Sunday Service: April 4, 2021 (Easter)

"He is Risen!"



Zoom service starts promptly at 10 am:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84841981079?pwd=OG1TMThyZFFQZ1Q0dStpZlJCdURUUT09>

Lent–Easter 2021 Theme: Going Deep

Nearly a year ago we entered the world of isolation and virtual connection with which all of us are now familiar. Suddenly the wilderness of Lent has become all too real, as we were stripped of our usual resources, surroundings, activities, and circles of relationship. During this time our world has experienced both deep grief and invitations to a new spaciousness of time, as we needed to release so much of what usually fills our lives.

In the Scriptures and the traditions of Lent, we see a scrubbing away of the excess to get to the core of our Christian journeys and of ourselves. The call to go deeper can be frightening or overwhelming when we feel we are not ready and do not know what we will find. We keep much of our pain in our depths. But only from these depths can the voice of God reach us and transform us.

FOCUS for Easter

Deep in the feast. Called to deep living: We have seen the Lord! A rich feast has been prepared for all peoples on the mountain of God. Like Mary, Jesus calls us each by name into abundant life.

1. GATHERING

Musical Prelude

Scripture (Mark 16:1-8)

Mark 16:1 When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. 2 And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. 3 They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" 4 When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. 5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. 6 But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." 8 So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.

Call to Worship



One: And while it was still dark, Mary found the light!

Many: The disciples came running, but they did not understand.

One: Mary stood weeping and saw angels but did not recognize Jesus.

Many: But when Jesus calls our name, then we recognize the way, the truth, and the life.

One: And then there was feasting! And there is feasting to come. God will make for all peoples a feast of rich food and well-aged wines and will wipe away tears from all faces.

Many: It will be said on that day, "This is our God for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice. There is peace by Jesus Christ."

One: Hold firmly to the good news, which you received, in which you stand, through which you are being saved.

All: *Let's open the gates of righteousness to enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.*

Congregational Singing

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture (Acts 10:34-43)



Acts 10:34 Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. 37 That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39 We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; 40 but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41 not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Affirmation of Faith

Many: Deep calls to deep. We give thanks from the depths of our hearts!

One: Once weeping, now proclaiming: "I have seen the Lord!"

Many: Once famished, now feasting: "This is the God for whom we have waited!"

One: Once divided, now convicted: "Jesus Christ is Lord of all!"

Many: We shall not die but we shall live and keep telling the deeds of the Lord.

One: Deep calls to deep. You call to us from the depth of your love, O God. You have come to us in Jesus Christ.

Many: We answer your call to deep living!

Congregational Singing

Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:1-11)



“If the sight of the blue skies fills you with joy, if a blade of grass springing up in the fields has power to move you, if the simple things of nature have a message that you understand, rejoice, for your soul is alive.” — Eleonora Duse

15:1 Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, 2 through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you--unless you have come to believe in vain. 3 For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, 4 and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them--though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Congregational Singing

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD



"I rejoice in the fact that Christ is not dead but risen from the grave! He lives and has returned to the earth to restore His authority and gospel to man. He has given us the perfect example of the kind of men and women we should be." — Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Reflections

Joys and Concerns

Congregational Singing

Scripture (Isaiah 25:6-9)

Isaiah 25:6 On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. 7 And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. 8 Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. 9 It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Sending Blessing

In the early light, urgent feet pound along the path toward the room: "He is alive!" they say. The tomb is empty, and the room is full of wonder. And the feasting, the deep nourishment, and knowledge of a risen Christ begins! May we receive this news, once again, with a call to deep living. Go into this day, forever changed. Amen.

Sending Song