

March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday: "Resurrection: A Living Stone's Perspective!"

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

300 E. Oak Street, Ft. Collins, CO 80524

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

Cell: 970-412-7510



SEASON OF EASTER

A very large stone was used to seal Jesus' fate as just another tragically failed Messiah — dead, entombed, and soon forgotten. Yet it could not contain him nor the new questions that carries us into the Easter Season. The women wonder as they approach, "Who will move the stone for us?" The figures in dazzling apparel ask, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" Perhaps the power of love can bring us new life!

1. GATHERING

Musical Prelude

Congregational Singing (#327)

Opening Prayer (#919)

Congregational Singing (#321)

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24)

Leader: O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good and the LORD's steadfast love will endure forever!

People: We also declare that, "God's steadfast love will endure forever."

L: The LORD is my strength and my might and now has become my salvation.

P: We will sing songs of joy because, "The right hand of the LORD can truly save!"

L: The Lord has opened for us the gates of righteousness, that we may pass through them and enter into God's great Kin-dom of the power of love!

Congregational Singing (#353)

"A rebirth out of spiritual adversity causes us to become new creatures." — James E. Faust

P: We give thanks and offer praise to our mighty God, because God has answered us and become our salvation.

L: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone of God's house.

P: God did that and it is a marvelous thing to behold.

ALL: This is the day that the LORD God has enabled; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Welcome and Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

All: Let us offer one another signs of peace, reconciliation, and love.

"The whole point of the Resurrection stories - and the Resurrection itself - is that we don't recognize Jesus when he comes back to us." — Jay Parini

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Selections from Mark and Luke

Mark 16: 1-8

1 As soon as the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome who had bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him, 2 went to the tomb. It was very early on the first day of the week, just as the sun was rising. 3 But as they got closer they began asking each other, "Who will roll away that stone for us which blocks the entrance to the tomb?" 4 But then they looked up, and saw that the stone, which was huge, had already been rolled away.

5 When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in white, sitting on the right side, which made them a bit apprehensive.

6 But he said to them, "Don't be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was executed. But he is not here, he has been raised. Look, there is

the spot where they laid his body. 7 Go now and tell his disciples, particularly the one call "Rock" (Peter) that he is gone ahead of you to Galilee! There you will find him, just like he told you."

8 Immediately they left, running from the tomb, both fearful and excited. And they did not breathe a word of it to anyone because, after all they were pretty scared!

Luke 24:4-6

4 And so, while they were still uncertain about what to do, two figures in dazzling clothing suddenly appeared and stood beside them. 5 Out of sheer fright the women fell to the ground, prostrate before them. And they said to the women, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen, just like he said he would."

SERMON: "Resurrection: A Living Stone's Perspective!"



So, what have we learned this Lent about "Living Stones?" Has this changed our perspectives at all?

The final "stone" passage we will look at is the one about the stone used to supposedly seal Jesus' fate as just another tragically failed Messiah — dead, entombed, and soon forgotten. The women wonder as they approach, "Who will move the stone for us?"

The figures in dazzling apparel ask, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

These are questions each of us need to ask ourselves!

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing (#359)

Response

Joys and Concerns

Offering & Music

Sending (#346)

"Nations, like stars, are entitled to eclipse. All is well, provided the light returns and the eclipse does not become endless night. Dawn and resurrection are synonymous. The reappearance of the light is the same as the survival of the soul." — Victor Hugo