



Jesus came and stood among them and said,

**PEACE
BE WITH
YOU**

JOHN 20:26

At Home Worship for Faith and Hope

Third Sunday of Easter

April 18, 2021

“That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them!

‘Peace be with you,’ he said.”

John 20:19 (NLT)

*Call to Worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

We have not seen the risen Christ,

But we see him in the lives

of those transformed by grace.

We have not seen Jesus face-to-face,

But we have seen him in the faces

of everyone whose love encourages us.

We have not touched the wounds from the cross,

But we have been called

to bring healing to the scarred of the world.

*Easter Praise

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

UMH 327

*Opening Prayer

Resurrected God, though we have hidden ourselves in a locked room and huddled together as ones who build barriers, send your Living Word through our locked doors and into our guarded hearts that we might be witnesses of your grace and couriers of your goodness. By the power of your Holy Spirit, grant us the trust to believe the Gospel not because we see it but because we have been seen by it and transformed through it. Amen.

No Children's Moments This Week

Share How You Can Present Your Offering to God

Make your offering personal...through a donation or an act of service...bring to God an offering of praise and gratitude!

Sing the Doxology Together

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

A Prayer for the Easter Season

— written by Bruce Prewer

Dear God, you are astounding!

*At the end of all your surprises
you send among us the One who was crucified,
dead and buried, and risen into glory.*

*He comes now as a living Lord,
defying our locked doors,
banishing our fears,
greeting us with peace,
and overwhelming us with awe and wondering love.*

*How paltry is our vaunted knowledge,
how pathetic our cultured doubts,
when our souls are confronted with this risen Christ!*

*How blessed are those who believe him,
and how happy are those who receive him.*

*Please receive our thanks, our praise and our worship,
and continue bless us beyond our deserving,
as we lift up our voices in celebration.
In the name of this same Christ Jesus
whose presence makes this occasion. **Amen!***

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

God's Word

John 20:19-23 (NLT)

(see below)

The Word of God for the people of God...Thanks be to God!

Message

"Peace Be With You"

Pastor Clark

...when our lives are riddled with uncertainty

*Hymn of Faith

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

UMH 397

Blessing

Nathan Nettleton

*Go now, sent by the one who was sent by God.
Walk in the light;
testify to the resurrection of Christ;
forgive the sins of all,
and live at peace with one another.
And may God bless you with life forever;
May Christ Jesus breathe his Spirit and peace into you;
And may the Holy Spirit lead you into the life and light of God.
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
..... In the name of Christ. Amen.*

Crown Him with Many Crowns

1. Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

2. Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

3. Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end,
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

4. Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.

I Need Thee Every Hour

1. I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
no tender voice like thine can peace afford.

Refrain:

I need thee, O I need thee;
every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.

2. I need thee every hour; stay thou nearby;
temptations lose their power when thou art nigh.
(Refrain)

3. I need thee every hour, in joy or pain;
come quickly and abide, or life is vain.
(Refrain)

4. I need thee every hour; teach me thy will;
and thy rich promises in me fulfill.
(Refrain)

5. I need thee every hour, most Holy One;
O make me thine indeed, thou blessed Son.
(Refrain)

Peace Be with You

John 20:19-23 (NLT)

¹⁹ *That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said.* ²⁰ *As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord!* ²¹ *Again he said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.”* ²² *Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.* ²³ *If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”*

Introduction

The ***Unisys Security Index*** surveys more than 13,000 people in 13 countries, and is considered one of the only recurring global snapshots of citizen perceptions. It measures anxiety about issues like national security, disasters or epidemics, and personal safety. The most recent survey shows that levels of U.S. anxiety jumped sharply, and came in at the highest levels since the surveys began a decade ago.

“It’s an understatement to say that anxiety level is high, and we live in very uncertain times,” said a Unisys senior vice president. “We definitely have seen a huge spike over the last several years...magnified by the 2020 coronavirus pandemic.”

We live in uncertain times. We wonder about the future. We have personal concerns, family concerns, national concerns, global concerns...

Anxiety is the reflexive response to all this uncertainty.

Well, my overactive imagination got rolling with this: what if the disciples would have taken some kind Unisys Security Index on Easter evening? You’d think the anxiety levels would be plummeting as the news and the reality of Jesus’ resurrection settled in upon them. That wasn’t the case. Ironically, their anxiety levels were skyrocketing.

Let’s capture the setting, the frame of mind the disciples were in on this Easter evening. Literally, they were locked away in an Upper Room in fear that those who crucified Jesus were out looking for them. Their dreams were crushed. They had hoped Jesus had been the One—the Messiah—to set the people free. They had hoped to be at the center of this new movement. But now, Jesus has been crucified. End of the line. End of the story. And they were confused. There had been some reports that the Tomb was empty. How could that be? They didn’t know what to believe.

But there’s more. There’s something even deeper. They were shamed by their failure! They had abandoned Jesus when He needed their support the most. They had fallen asleep in the Garden, denied knowing him when linked to Jesus, abandoned him at the Cross. Didn’t bother to check out

whether the Tomb might be empty. In short, their identity was crushed with shame...they felt a shame deeper than they had ever experienced. They had a hard time envisioning a future with any hope whatsoever.

That's kind of where we are at, isn't it? As we still wrestle with COVID-19, we wonder if it will ever end...will the future will have the same potential of hope as in days past. We are not unfamiliar with these feelings.

Ever feel like there is simply no way your future could have an ounce of hope? Your dreams ...what you had hoped would become a reality...now lie in shambles at your feet. You are still stinging from the defeat. You are reeling at the emptiness of the present moment. You are grieving the loss of what could have been. If that's been your experience, then what happened to the disciples might well happen to you...

#1 The Only Possibility for Peace

"That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders."

Terrance Klein said in a blog: *"We lock doors when we are afraid. It separates us from whatever it is that we fear. **Unfortunately, locked doors do not shut out fear itself. That is sealed inside with us. Fear does not lessen in containment. It grows. It increases because we are alone with our fright. Locked in, nothing draws our attention away from whatever it is that we dread.**"*

The only possibility for peace is to face our fears. The only thing that sets in motion the possibility for peace is not to hide from our fears but to face them head on. Otherwise, they grow, they imprison, they intimidate.

It's easy for us to hide from our fears. Here are some hide-away strategies many use:

- Escape our fears with elaborate trips and vacations
- Numb our fears with alcohol or illicit drugs
- Bury our fears with distractions like binge shopping or eating

What's been your go-to strategy for dealing with the chaos of the unexpected in your life...when you want to steel away behind locked doors and hide from your fears?

Again, the beginning of the possibility for peace starts when we turn to face our fears. But that takes courage...fortitude. Where can you find that? Here's a good place. Listen to the Apostle Paul, no stranger to unexpected chaos breaking out in his life, shares these audacious words from Philippians 4:6-7 (which by the way is now the most searched passage in the Bible online).

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”

Those verses are all about facing our fear, about taking action, about doing the only thing that will tame your fears. That leads us to the next thing these disciples discovered.

#2 Peace Is a Who

“Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! ‘Peace be with you,’ he said.”

“Peace is not the absence of trouble, but the presence of God.” J. Oswald Sanders

Jesus is suddenly in their midst in the Upper Room where they are huddled. Let’s make one important observation: Jesus well could have ridiculed them for their lack of faith in denying him and abandoning him. Instead, Jesus graces them with a profound gift: peace. This peace restored their relationship with Jesus and infused them with a dynamic sense of his Presence.

The truth is there was only one thing that could bring peace to their troubled hearts and relationships, and that was Jesus himself, alive, present, and leading them once again.

What’s that mean for us? Boldly that only Jesus, the Lord of Peace, can settle our anxious and troubled hearts...Jesus alive, present, leading our lives once again! Peace is a Who! His name is Jesus. The Risen One. Jesus wants to come into your locked hideaways and restore order to the chaos, peace to your heart.

Are you willing to allow Jesus to enter and restore order out of the disorder our fears and anxieties have caused?

So I have to ask: is your life a tangle of fear? What are you doing to cultivate an awareness of God’s Presence? Are you doing anything to open your heart to the Jesus who penetrates locked doors to help you with your peace? Would you recognize Jesus standing there? Or are you oblivious to His Presence? What about prayer? What about time in God’s Word?

Peace happens when we pray!

#3 Peace Surges with Reassurance

“As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord!”

Unlike any other religion in all humanity, we know Jesus through His scars. Only Christianity has a God with scars...radiant scars. That’s how we grow with assurance that this is really Jesus alive, Risen.

The last line of Edward Shillito’s stunning ***“Jesus of the Scars”*** goes like this:

“But to our wounds only God’s wounds can speak, and not a god has wounds, but Thou alone.”

The disciples no doubt had wounds, as we have already seen. Only God’s wounds could speak to them or connect with them in their pain. So, Jesus showed the disciples his wounds.

You and I have wounds, scars too. Life does that to us. Only a Jesus with scars and wounds is a God we can trust!

Then notice the amazing response of the disciples: *“They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord!”*

#4 Peace Surprises Us...Recalls and Recommissions Us

Again he said, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.’”

Jesus then startles them by commissioning them to become his agents in this perilous world. *Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.”*

They must have thought to themselves: ***really? You’ve got to be kidding! After our track record the last week?*** When we fell asleep in the Garden of Gethsemane when you most needed our presence? When we denied you before your accusers? When we abandoned you when you were tortured and crucified? When we didn’t show up at the tomb on the third day awaiting your rising? When we didn’t even believe when some of our company told us they had seen you alive? ***You really think we can fulfill your mission? How? They were feeling very stone-like just then!***

There is a sure connection between our peace and our mission. If our lives are constantly in turmoil, if we live in the prison of fear, then all of life will be about us. It will be dominated by how we can manage, numb, alleviate, deaden our fears. It will be a life turned inward.

If life is never really more than about us, our needs, our preferences, our wants, our brokenness, then we will never join Jesus on the mission field across the street or around the world.

On the other hand, if we open our hearts to the Risen Jesus, to the One who along is Peace, then order is restored, peace settles the turmoil, and we are set free to turn our hearts toward the mission Jesus entrusts to us.

Sharing Our God Story Event TONIGHT at 4:00 PM...

Conclusion

Notice the profound difference between the portrait we get of these disciples in the closing chapters of John’s gospel and the radically different portrait we find in the book of Acts:

- At the end of John’s gospel: asleep in the Garden when Jesus needed them most, denied Jesus at the time of his arrest and crucifixion, (other than John) abandoned Jesus at the Cross,

stubborn resistance to the Good News of Jesus' resurrection, locked away in fear in the Upper Room...not a flattering portrait!

- Now notice the stunning contrast in Acts as these same disciples...gathered in the Upper Room not out of fear but with the passion to pray, gathering with together for fellowship and study and sharing the Lord's Supper, contagious joy that drew others to embrace faith, bold courage to bear witness to the Risen Christ, willingness to suffer for the sake of the mission

That's what Peace does! Hear Jesus tell you, ***"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."***



What's Your God Story?

Today at Hope Church! Learn to Share Your Unique God Story

Stories have a way of captivating our minds and hearts like nothing else. They capture our attention. They give us fresh eyes to understand the world around us. They raise questions that compel us to think about life. Jesus knew the power of a good story. To communicate the most important issues of the human soul, Jesus used everyday stories that any listener could easily understand such as *"the Good Samaritan"* or *"Zacchaeus Coming Down from the Tree."* Every story pointed toward the grander vision of God!

You too have a story to tell! And your story fits into God's grander vision. Your God story tells what Christ means to you; what difference Christ has made in your life. Something about your relationship with Christ could help a neighbor or a friend draw closer to God!

When the situation arises and you have the opportunity to share why you believe, why you are a Christ-follower, are you ready with a thoughtful response? What if you could learn how to do this with a brief, authentic, compelling, and contagious way without unnecessary jargon?

Today April 18 from 4:00-6:00 PM, you will have an opportunity to go through an encouraging and practical process that will help you share your unique God Story! Just come!

Men's Breakfast and Fellowship to Restart May 8

The men of Faith and Hope are invited to participate in the restart of our Men's Breakfast and Fellowship on Saturday May 8 at 8:00 AM at Faith. We will share an awesome breakfast together, be uplifted by the devotional inspiration from one of our men, and then head outside work on the landscaping around the church.

New Members to Be Received on Sunday April 25

*Faith Church will receive new members the last Sunday of the month as a special part of our worship experience. **Matt and Debbie Fields and James and Heather Martin and Rylie Grace** will be welcomed into formal membership. Come for this creative expression of welcoming grace!*

Hopeful Hearts Has Restarted

The Hopeful Hearts Baby Clothing Ministry restarted yesterday. This ministry has assisted families with a need for baby clothing for years now. If you'd like to assist with this ministry with service on occasional Saturday mornings, please let Hope Church know.

Senior Spring Fling Luncheon

*Where: Hope United Methodist Church When: Saturday, May 1, 2021 from 11:00 am -1:00pm
Cost: \$7.00 per person (pay at the door) RSVP: by April 19, 2021 to Jan Burtner (505-553-8694),
Cindi Lynch (614-578-5066) Limited to 50 guests. Lunch Buffet Menu will consist of a variety of
sandwiches, two side dishes, assortment of desserts and beverages. Live music provided by
Greg Dickson. The Canal Winchester Queens 2019 along with others.*