

April 2018 Pastor's Page

What a crazy spring we've had so far, considering that the official start of this long-expected season was only March 20. I've already forgotten whether March came in like a lion or a lamb, but either animal seems to enjoy roller coasters!?! Perhaps April can usher in a more steady climb toward warmer weather?

I have been encouraged, as I hope many of you have, by the good turnout we had for our Wednesday evening services during Lent, averaging about 30 people each week. For those who joined us, I pray that our "Journey of Stones" was a meaningful time of both mid-week fellowship and thought-provoking reflection, as we heard meditation titles like "Rejected Stones" and "Sticks and Stones." Our last two Wednesdays discussed the small stones we can bring to build alongside Peter (the disciple upon whom Christ said he would build his church), and called us each to realize that if we keep silent in the face of sin, even the rocks will cry out.

As we move through Holy Week and anticipate the joy of Easter by the time you receive this, I hope you have taken time to pause and consider the story of our Savior as he journeys to the hill called Golgotha. "Good News" is not always the impression we get from Jesus' final days, but we must remember that the bright joy of Easter morning does not come without the gathering clouds and darkness of his crucifixion. Arising out of that gloom, Luke relays this command in our Epistle lesson from Acts 10:42-43 on Easter morning: "[Jesus] 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. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Whether it's being re-commissioned with the disciples to forgive or retain sins, seeing ourselves in Thomas' very understandable doubtfulness, or being challenged to pick up the task of fishermen or shepherd, there is much for each of us Easter people to do and contemplate as we carry the Good News of the gospel into a bruised and hurting world. We need only turn on our TVs or open a newspaper to find many in need of the Savior's love. What role will you play?

It seems hard to believe that the long, reflective, and often cold journey of Lent has now come to an end. On Easter morning (April 1st—no foolin'!?!) we will all share in Communion as we joyfully exclaim, "He is risen!"—proclaiming the good news from John 20:1-18 for all the world to hear. I invite each of you to read ahead from John's gospel, and then gather together as brothers and sisters in Christ to enjoy the familiar story again for the first time as we celebrate the resurrection and worship our great God!

All too soon, even the excitement and joy of Easter morning will come and go. But as will be mentioned in our sermon that blessed morning, the challenge left to us is not only to remember Jesus' resurrection, but to continue believing and applying its joy in the days, weeks, and months afterward. I hope that you are always ready to boldly proclaim, "He is risen...He is risen indeed!"

In Christ's service,
Rev. Cory Germain