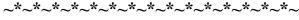
EASTER SUNDAY, April 4, 2021

As I write this note to you on the most holy day in Christianity, I invite you to join me in a spirit of celebration and victory. The empty tomb proclaims the greatest news in all of human history. As the apostle Paul declared to the church at Corinth, in chapter 15 verses 55-57, "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." In John 20 we read about Mary Magdalene crying at the empty tomb, wondering if the gardener had removed the body. When Jesus says her name, "Mary", she realizes the Lord is standing in front of her ... bodily resurrected. I believe that the first thing we will hear when we meet Jesus is our name. We will realize then that our Lord knows us better than anyone else and we will recognize the one who has loved us for our entire life. What an amazing reunion that will be! Love, mercy, kindness and gentleness will flood our souls and we will be filled with a peace and joy beyond words.

Meanwhile, while we are on this earth, we are called to do what Jesus told Mary to do. "Go instead to my brothers and sisters and tell them, ... tell them Jesus is alive and dwells among us." This is the victory message of Easter.

This is why Isaiah said, "... he will swallow death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from their faces ..." In I Corinthians 15, Paul made it clear, "... that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures ..." This was the heart of Paul's Easter message and the reason for his ministry.

I pray that we will draw close to Jesus this season so that our faith may be revived. People are getting vaccinated, spring is here and new life is sprouting from the earth. May the hopeful message of the crocus inspire our faith. Our Lord has not abandoned us. He has promised to dwell with us unto the end of the age. Because He Lives, so do we! Happy Easter!



Scripture for reflection this week:

Old Testament Isaiah 25:6-9

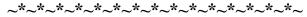
New Testament I Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel lesson: John 20:1-18



This week's memory verse:

SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE, AND I SHALL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER. Psalm 23:6



An Easter Hymn of Inspiration: "Up From The Grave He Arose"

Low in the grave He lay Jesus my Savior! Waiting the coming day Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave He arose
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes
He arose a Victor from the dark domain
And He lives forever with His saints to reign
He arose! (He arose)
He arose! (He arose)
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Vainly they watch His bed Jesus, my Savior!
Vainly they seal the dead Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave He arose
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes
He arose a Victor from the dark domain
And He lives forever with His saints to reign
He arose! (He arose)
He arose! (He arose)
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Death cannot keep his prey Jesus, my Savior! He tore the bars away Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave He arose
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes
He arose a Victor from the dark domain
And He lives forever with His saints to reign
He arose! (He arose)
He arose! (He arose)
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Up from the grave He arose
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes
He arose a Victor from the dark domain

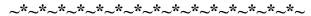
And He lives forever with His saints to reign

He arose! (He arose) He arose! (He arose) Hallelujah! Christ arose!

https://youtu.be/6hAUjTD1Gno



We would welcome each of you to **join us in the sanctuary** on Easter morning at 10 am for worship if you are able and feel safe to do so. If you have any prayer concerns or joys to share, please let Rev. Jackson know at 508-410-1585 or at revrhjackson@gmail.com



We are also planning to have our Easter service on ZOOM if you would like to join us there.

Topic: FCC Easter Service

Time: Apr 4, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us05web.zoom.us/j/82274743655?pwd=Nkp5NEVIL0dRbnlYL01MMy8xeFlxUT09

Meeting ID: 822 7474 3655

Passcode: tXx2sV

Warm Easter blessings,

Rev Bob Jackson