

Luke 24: 1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.”

Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Things beyond our seeing. Things beyond our hearing. Things beyond our imagining.

PREPARED BY GOD FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM

*At each divine juncture my wings expand
And I touch Him more intimately*

Meister Eckhart 13th c

Imagine the women posting on Facebook that the tomb is empty and two men in dazzling clothes said Jesus had risen. The disciples react with emojis and GIFs of people laughing hysterically or people frowning like “have you lost it?”

Idle tales. There are idle tales that are REALLY idle tales. The earth is flat. Charlie Carr, my dad, told me years ago when I (age 7 or so) asked about the smoke coming from the tall exhaust pipe on a tractor trailer truck we saw on the highway, “he’s frying chicken in there.” I thought that was pretty amazing. But it turned out, dogonnit, to be an idle tale. So some idle tales are really idle tales, then there are things we hear or read that may be worth considering but, because they “press in” on our settled perspectives, we, in our arrogance, dismiss them out of hand as idle tales. We see this with the disciples in our text today—but the women are not completely off the hook here.

As much as they loved Jesus, these women in our story today, back in chapter 9, had probably heard Jesus talk about his suffering, death, and rising... the words the dazzlingly dressed men in our text today were encouraging them to remember.

The women had obviously dismissed such talk at the time as an idle tale because this morning in Luke 24 they had come to the tomb to take care of a corpse. Jesus’ words about dying and rising simply had not made sense back in chapter 9. Things had been going so well with Jesus and his friends. Just BEFORE he predicts his death and rising in Luke 9 there has been a feeding of thousands and the disciples had been sent out and done a great job of preaching and healing. Just AFTER Jesus predicts his death and rising in Luke these women are probably nearby when Jesus heals a young boy of possession by a demon. Dying and rising was not fitting into the scenario. There were so many more people to heal, to forgive. So many more parables to tell! Talk of dying and rising clearly seemed to them an idle tale.

In Mark’s Gospel, when Jesus talks of dying and rising, Peter vigorously dismisses the idea that Jesus would be killed and Matthew includes that in his Gospel too but Luke does not report Peter’s protest. No one can be sure why this is, but later in Luke when Jesus tells Peter he will fall away. Peter is true to character, he is out of hand dismissive. ME fall away? THAT’S the Peter we know and love. ME fall away? Sure enough, when the cock crowed on Good Friday morning, Peter had denied he knew Jesus 3 times. What he thought was an idle tale, what he had dismissed out of hand, turned out to be true. Ouch. Sometimes the most painful moments are the most instructive moments of our lives.

Jesus does not tell idle tales. Nor do men in dazzling clothes who help the women to remember what Jesus had said about dying and rising. Nor, to be sure, do the women, humbled that they had previously dismissed Jesus’ words, who come back on Easter morning to tell the disciples what they have seen and heard.

Now let’s move in for a closer look. While the disciples are dismissing out of hand what the women are saying, what do we see Peter doing?

Having been stung by his arrogance on Friday, Peter is not at all inclined to be so dismissive this time. Luke tells us he runs to the tomb. “stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves...”

His hard won humility is beginning to pay off. While the other disciples are, as far as we can tell, busy posting their GIFs on Facebook, Peter is looking at linen cloths lying on the floor of an otherwise empty tomb, and feeling what? Dare he allow himself to feel the joy these linen cloths might represent? Dare he allow himself to feel the love rising in his being and allow that love to swallow up the wound of his Good Friday remorse? Whatever has happened here is certainly no idle tale. Now he needs time and space.

He goes home, Luke tells us. “Amazed,” Luke tells us. Not back to the others yet. He’s taking a different path. He needs time. He needs space to sit with the image of those linen cloths and the stunning staggering astonishing meanings for himself and the world they are feverishly eliciting in his heart and imagination.

At some point on that Sunday afternoon, Peter sees the Lord. We learn about it later as Luke tells the story. No details are provided for this moment of encounter between Peter at home and the Risen Christ. But we can say this----those linen cloths, those Eastered linen cloths, sent Peter on a new path of urgent and resolute wondering. And into that wondering space----the Risen One comes. Meister Eckhart elegantly calls this moment a “divine juncture.” He seems to suggest, and my own experience bears this out, that these moments, these divine junctures, can happen multiple times in our lives...each time bringing us into a deeper encounter with Christ.

Imagine Peter rejoining his friends later that day. He is obviously more serene, more deeply joyful, and brimming over with love and word of what the Risen Christ has shown him---a new and deathless world is coming forth. In his being, he becomes an Eastered linen cloth for his friends, he serves that purpose, he plays that role. In his being, the invitation to take a new path is extended.

So it must be and can be for us friends. To become gratuitously gracious, freely forgiving, joyfully celebrative, fiercely hopeful, gently determined peacemakers, Spirit vivified and Spirit led Eastered emissaries of the coming deathless world.

“Behold I am coming quickly” says the Lord in Revelation 22.

That’s no idle tale. It’s worth everything, we are, everything in us to tell it.

HE IS RISEN!

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

April 21, 2019 EASTER SUNDAY

In Jesus' Name, Greetings!

Music for Gathering

Resurrection Bells

Praise the Lord from the earth! Ocean depths! Clouds and wind! Mountains and all hills!
Kings of the earth and all nations! Princes and all rulers! Men and women! Young and old!

LET THEM PRAISE THE NAME OF THE LORD!

216 Christ the Lord is Risen Today vs 1, 3, 4

Lighting of the Candles

“The Spirit will guide you into all truth” John 16

Sharing Christ's Peace

“O Worship the King” NOCC Jubilation Ringers

The Morning Prayer and Musical Response

Silence

“...that I myself may be in them.” John 17

Children's Circle

All children thru 5th grade are welcome to come forward. A small outreach offering will be collected for our money jar. Following this time of sharing and prayer, children may attend their very own “Worship and Wonder” time together in our classroom annex. Child care is offered for infants and toddlers but they are also welcome in the sanctuary.

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious Beloved, help us to welcome the light and walk in it always

SHOW US THE WAY WE MUST GO TO ETERNAL DAY, AMEN

THE GOSPEL LUKE 24: 1-12

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, amen amen.

The Meditation Rev. Rob Carr

Risen Christ, when darkness overwhelms us, may your dawn beckon. When fear paralyses, may your touch be a release. When grief torments, may your peace enfold. When memories haunt, may your presence heal. When justice is betrayed may your anger ignite. When apathy stagnates, may your challenge renew. When courage leaves, may your Spirit inspire. When despair has a grip, may your hope restore. And when death threatens, may your resurrection light lead us into the joy of your Kingdom.

Silent and spoken personal prayers of thanksgiving confession, intercession

“Alleluia He Is Risen” NOCC Choir

The Offering

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.
As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

546 Amazing Grace

In Christ lives the fullness of Divinity, and in him too we find our own fulfillment

**BEFORE ANYTHING WAS CREATED, HE EXISTED
AND HE HOLDS ALL THINGS IN UNITY**

We must live our whole lives according to the Christ we have received
HE IS THE IMAGE OF THE UNSEEN GOD, THE FIRSTBORN OF ALL CREATION

Welcome to the Table
The Words of Institution

May God enlighten the eyes of our minds, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us

**AND HOW INFINITELY GREAT ARE THE RESOURCES OF HIS POWER
OPEN TO US WHO TRUST IN HIM**

This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ when he raised him from the dead

MAKING HIM THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

Which is his body

**HOLDING WITHIN IT THE FULLNESS OF HIM WHO HIMSELF
RECEIVES THE ENTIRE FULLNESS OF GOD.**

The Communion Prayer
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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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.

Following the Lord's Prayer, please come forward by rows to receive the loaf and the cup.

The cup is non-alcoholic by choice of the congregation

Gluten free crackers are available on the table for those who prefer this option

Children also celebrate communion weekly as part of "Worship and Wonder"

543 Blessed Assurance vs 1 and 3

Wondrous God, we thank you with all our hearts
FOR YOU HAVE DELIVERED US FROM THE GRAVE

TO OUR GUESTS----WELCOME!

SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD AND GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE

WE WALK HUMBLY, LOVE DEEPLY, LIVE SIMPLY, AND SERVE JOYFULLY

We are delighted to include you today. Your presence and participation is a gift to us all. We hope you experience among us the warm spirit of our family of faith and the gracious touch of Christ upon your life. Refreshments and welcoming conversation are available after worship in the Community Room just down the hall. More information about NOCC and the Disciples of Christ is available via

Facebook and these websites

www.nocckc.org www.kcdisciples.org www.disciples.org

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

THIS WEEK

EGG HUNT FOLLOWS WORSHIP

Monday 6PM Troop 900
Tuesday 945AM Men's Bible Group
Tuesday 1230PM Women's Bible Group
Tuesday 6PM Pack 900
Wednesday 7PM Music Ministry
Friday 5PM Eastertide Retreat Begins

UPCOMING

Blessing of the Animals Follows Worship Next Sunday

At the conclusion of our Earth Sunday worship celebration we will process outdoors for a blessing of animals and pets. Members and friends of NOCC are encouraged to bring their pets to church that day and keep them safely tethered outdoors or kenneled/caged for the better part of the morning until we gather them together for a blessing. Children and the young at heart are encouraged to bring a favorite toy animal as well. Our prayers and blessings will also embrace all the wildlife that flourishes on our property. Please plan to be present for this rich and celebrative time in communion with our creatures.

YOU, ME AND THE ENNEAGRAM MAY 11, 16, 23, SIGN UP IN ENTRYWAY

GRADUATION SUNDAY MAY 19

JULY 22-23 DISCIPLES GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN DES MOINES

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Adults and children with questions and interest in Baptism...
Be in touch with Rob

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BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR SUMMER 2019

Adults and children with questions and interest in Baptism---
Rob would welcome conversation at your convenience!