
Graphics and Audio Notes

- There **will** be a sermon starter video.
- There **will** be notes and / or scripture to show on screen during the sermon.

Text highlighted in this way will have a slide prepared to be on screen.

Text highlighted in this way is a reminder for Andrew during delivery.



Key Questions

What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about Easter Sunday at Jesus' tomb and what this means for our life today.

Why is this sermon important?

It is important because it addresses the power of the resurrection, which is at the center of the Christian life.

What is the good news?

The good news of Easter is that Jesus, the one who died, lives!

What are the next action steps?

Turn from our own way and follow Jesus' example and his teaching.

What is the context of this sermon?

This is the first Sunday of worship in our renovated sanctuary.

Metadata

Topics

- Change Lives
- Make Disciples
- Worship

Sermon Books of the Bible

- John

Easter Day (White or Gold)

April 16, 2017

Believe - Exploring the Apostles' Creed - Life Everlasting

John 20:1-18

First United Methodist Church of El Dorado

Preaching Target Word Count: 2,197

Tags

sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, ElDorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, resurrection, hope, life

Sermon Audio

9 a.m. Worship

11 a.m. Worship

Sermon Video



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John 20:1-18, NRSV

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I'm sorry. Thank you. Please.

Not ready to pray

Ready to pray

Logistics

Closing Prayer

Introduction

John 20:1-18, CEB

¹Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ²She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they've put him."

³Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. ⁴They were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the tomb. ⁵Bending down to take a look, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn't go in. ⁶Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. ⁷He also saw the face cloth that had been on Jesus' head. It wasn't with the other clothes but was folded up in its own place. ⁸Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹They didn't yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

¹¹Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. ¹²She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot.

¹³The angels asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

She replied, "They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him." ¹⁴As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus.

¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni" (which means *Teacher*).

¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Don't hold on to me, for I haven't yet gone up to my Father. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, 'I'm going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, "I've seen the Lord." Then she told them what he said to her.

John 20:1-18, NRSV

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb

first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.

¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Response to Scripture

One: The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

Beliefs

Belief #1

[share example of core belief]

Belief #2

[share example of core belief]

Personal Connection

I wonder, what do you believe?

What is at the core of your being?

What are the foundations which you have built your life around?

Pause

Christian Beliefs and the Story of the Resurrection

Over the past several weeks, we have been examining essential beliefs of the Christian faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed. All of these beliefs rest on what happened on a Sunday morning over 2,000 years ago and more than 6,700 miles away. It is what we celebrate today - the resurrection of Jesus.

Transition

So, let's go back to that Sunday morning and hear the story fresh and new.

Sunday Morning Events

Friday and Saturday

Jesus' Death

A few days earlier, Jesus had been executed by the Roman government. He was killed in a terribly gruesome way. He suffocated while hanging on a cross. His body was taken down and placed in a borrowed tomb.

Disciples' Hopes and Dreams End

Whatever hopes and dreams the men and women who had been following Jesus may have ended that day.

Personal Connection with Death

Have you experienced the death of someone that you love?

You may know what Jesus' followers were feeling.

Pause

Women to Anoint Jesus' Body

Start of the Work Week

A few days later, it was the first day of the work week – like tomorrow will be here in El Dorado.

People were up and about their regular business, yet not all of them.

Women to Anoint Jesus' Body

There were a few women who had come to the tomb where Jesus body had been placed after he died. They were bringing spices to anoint his dead body.¹

¹ Mark 16:1-2, CEB.

Open Tomb

When Mary arrived at the cemetery, she “saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.”²

Huge Stone

You remember that a huge stone had been used to seal the tomb.

It would have taken 4 or 5 strong people to move, but here it was, open.

Empty Tomb / Grave Robbers

Not only that, but when she came closer she saw that the tomb was empty.

Jesus body was gone.

“Grave robbers...” she thinks.

Pause

Peter and the disciple Jesus loved

She runs to tell two of her friends, Jesus' disciples.

They also run to the tomb and find it empty. The scriptures say,

“They didn’t yet understand ... that Jesus must rise from the dead.”³

So, they head back to where they are staying.

What else are they going to do?

Mary Grieves

The only person left at the tomb is Mary.

She is crying at the death of a friend and the insult of a stolen body.

Pause

Dark Places

Our Lives

I wonder... Have you found yourself in a place like that?

A place that is filled with terror and dread...

A place where all you want to do is run...

Times when you feel overwhelmed by what is happening...

² John 20:1, CEB.

³ John 20:9, CEB.

Recognize Reality of Today

You may be in that place today.

If you are not there today, you might know what it feels like.

Pause

Evil Without

The truth is that bad things happen in our lives.

Life does not always go as we planned.

People are oppressed, ignored and turn to hate instead love.

Local Examples

We live in a world where:

children are abused.

people don't have enough food to eat

some can't find a safe place to sleep.

Global Examples

A world where:

Military tension seems to be increasing around the world.

Terrorist attacks are in the news regularly

There is darkness in our world.

Evil Within

But it is not just the things on the outside.

There is some darkness that lurks inside each of us.

Personal Examples

When left to ourselves:

We tend to act selfishly instead of generously.

We ignore the needs of other people and focus on ourselves

We break down relationship others instead of building them up.

Transition

So, what does Easter mean for our lives today?

How does this story make a difference in the face of our reality?

That question gets to the heart of the story of Easter.

The Story of Easter

God's response to evil, sin and darkness

God know all this. God sees it. God grieves.

The reality of evil, sin and darkness in our world needed to be taken care of,

cleaned up,
brought to light and forgiven.

God's response to the sin and evil both inside and outside us, is not to force us into line and crush anyone who disagrees.

Jesus

Instead, God sends God's only son to win us over by love.

Incarnation

Jesus, the one that God loves so dearly, is born as a baby and lives as one of us.

Life as a Child of God

He showed us what life is like as one of God's own children.

Life in God's Kingdom

Jesus taught us what it is like to live as part of God's kingdom.

God's Kingdom

God's kingdom is...

First / Last

a place where the first are last and the last are first.

Repentance / False Virtue

a place where sinners who repent enter before righteous people with false virtue.

Wedding Banquet

like a wedding banquet to which all are invited and yet some ignore the invitation.

Waiting Father

Like a father who waits for his messed up son to come home
and when he does arrive, throws a party and celebrates.

World Turned Upside Down by Love

This is the kingdom that Jesus proclaims.

This is God's response to the sin and evil we find around us and inside us.

God's kingdom turns the world upside down by love.

Jesus as a Threat

Message was too much

But this message of God's kingdom was too much for some people to take.

It was outside of their comfort zone.

It overturned what they assumed about religion.

Jesus is a threat

Jesus was a threat and needed to be eliminated.

So, he was arrested on Thursday night, put on trial long after dark and executed on Friday.

Jesus takes on evil

For All Time

When Jesus is hanging on the cross, all of the evil from the beginning of time to the end was placed on his shoulders.

For All People

All the evil and sin, hate and ugliness which we find in the world.

For Us

Our own sin - even those things which we wish no one will ever know about.
Jesus carried all of it as he suffered and died on the cross.

Jesus to the Heart of Darkness

He descended to the heart of darkness and evil so that he could leave those things behind and drag us out – from darkness to light.

Transition

This is the story of Easter.

Pause

Significance of Easter

Hope for All Time

Hope for Eternity

This means that we can look forward to the day when Christ returns and there will be no more sorrow or pain or suffering for this life will have passed away.

Hope for Now

God offers us the opportunity to experience a life today that is filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness and self-control – this is the life of a disciple of Jesus Christ.

We can live as a part of God's kingdom today.

Presence in Suffering

Of course, being a follower of Jesus does not mean promise an easy life.

God Knows Suffering

Yet, God knows what it is like to experience suffering.

God knows what it is like to see the death of a son.

Worst Thing is Never the Last Thing

Death is not the end of the story. Jesus has been raised.

When you are filled with terror, dread and fear, keep going...

When darkness seems to overcome you, keep going...

The worst thing you can imagine is never the last thing.

Healing

Healing Will Come

Our tears will be replaced by laughter.

Our confusion will be clarified.

Our broken relationships will be healed.

Always Hope

The resurrection is stronger than any evil.

There is always hope.

Significance of Easter

This is what Easter means for our lives today.

Pause

Conclusion

Good News

The good news of Easter is that Jesus, the one who died, lives!

He is not dead, he is alive.

He is risen from the dead, just as he said!

Do you believe this?

You might say, "That's not for me."

But you don't understand my life.

This story of resurrection, it is nice enough

But really, preacher? You believe that is true?

Pause

Confirmation of Belief

I know that it is true.

I have based my life on this good news.

I have seen the power of the risen Christ in the stories of lives changed right here in El Dorado.

I have felt it. I have seen it.

I see the truth of the resurrection in you.

Pause

Call to Action

If you live in El Dorado and you don't have a community of faith, I invite you to join us here at First United Methodist Church.

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We know that we don't have it all put together, yet we are striving to live as disciples of Jesus Christ as we worship, grow, give, serve and share.

We would love to have you join us.

Invitation

If you want to follow Jesus and experience the power of the resurrection...

If you want to live knowing that you will rise...

If you want to be certain that death, sin and evil will not have the final word...

You can.

All you have to do is ask.

I'm sorry. Thank you. Please.

It's a very simple thing to pray – I am sorry. Thank you. Please.

Turning away from the things that we know are wrong, saying "I am sorry".

Thanking Jesus for dying and being raised for us; putting our faith in him.

And finally asking, 'Please come and fill me with your Spirit.'

Not ready to pray

You may not be sure if you want to pray a prayer like that and that's okay.

Ready to pray

And, if you would like to pray, then:

it may be the very first time in your life to pray something like this,

it may be the first time for you in a long time, or

it may be a prayer that you have prayed every day for a long time.

Logistics

You do not have to pray it out loud, but just quietly under your breath.

You can repeat after me.

I'm sorry, thank you, please.

Jesus, the one who died, lives!

God is with us.

Jesus is alive.

You can follow him today.

Will you pray with me?

Closing Prayer

Jesus, I am sorry for all the times in my life when I mess up.

Easter Day (White or Gold)

April 16, 2017

Believe - Exploring the Apostles' Creed - Life Everlasting

John 20:1-18

First United Methodist Church of El Dorado

Preaching Target Word Count: 2,197

And if anything comes to mind, ask God's forgiveness.

Forgive me of my sin and all that I know is wrong.

Thank you that you died on the cross and rose for me.

I trust you with my life.

Help me receive your forgiveness.

Please fill me with your Spirit.

Help me to follow you.

In your holy name, Amen.