

### Media and Graphics Notes

<b>Word of Witness Video?</b>	No
<b>Sermon Starter Video?</b>	Yes, the sermon starter video begins with a black screen and images and music will begin in a few seconds.
<b>Sermon Notes?</b>	No sermon notes
<b>Other Notes</b>	At the end of the service, I will introduce the new sermon series, Good Grief. There is a promo video that goes along with it. I will ask for the video soon after talking about the upcoming events.

### Key Questions, Metadata and Outline

#### ***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?***

This sermon is important because it addresses the power of the resurrection, which is at the center of the Christina life.

#### ***What is the context of this sermon?***

This sermon and series were developed using *The Renegade Gospel*<sup>1</sup> by Mike Slaughter as a guide.

#### ***What are the next action steps?***

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

#### ***What is the good news (bottom line)?***

This is the good news of Easter: Jesus, the one who died, lives!

#### ***Metadata***

1. Topic(s)
  1. Worship
  2. Changing Lives
  3. Making Disciples
2. Sermon Books of the Bible
  1. John



<sup>1</sup> Mike Slaughter, *Renegade Gospel: The Rebel Jesus* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2014)

Easter Day  
Renegade Gospel - Resurrection  
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado  
Text Online at <http://j.mp/1F9z9UI>

April 5, 2015  
John 20:1-18  
Preaching Target Word Count: 1,964  
Video is not available online

3. Series
  1. Renegade Gospel
4. Speaker
  1. Andrew Conard
5. Tags
  1. Church, Methodist, United Methodist Church, First United Methodist Church, El Dorado, Kansas, worship, sermon, resurrection, hope, life,

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Hope for Now  
Transition  
Truth of the Story  
No Easy Life  
Worst Thing is Never the Last Thing  
Invitation  
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Closing Prayer

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## John 20:1-18, CEB

1 Early 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. 2 She 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." 3 Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. 4 They were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the tomb. 5 Bending down to take a look, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn't go in. 6 Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. 7 He 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. 8 Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9 They didn't yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

11 Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. 12 She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. 13 The 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." 14 As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus. 15 Jesus 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." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni" (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus 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.'" 18 Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, "I've seen the Lord." Then she told them what he said to her.

## Response to Scripture

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

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## Introduction

### Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

\*\*\* Start Sermon Timer \*\*\*

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## Easter Day

Today we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

Today, on Sunday morning over 2,000 years ago, Jesus left death behind.  
He is resurrected!  
This is the good news of Easter.  
Jesus, the one who died, lives!

### ***Transition***

What does Easter mean for our lives today?  
Here in El Dorado.  
Butler County, Kansas.  
Today we are going to take a closer look at that question, as we consider the good news of Easter

### **Sermon Notes and Scripture Study**

I invite you to open your bulletin to a place where you can take notes during the message today. Today, I hope that you will hear:

- Something new or find new questions
- Perspective on your life or something in your life that gives additional meaning to the message today.
- Guidance about how to live as a disciple of Jesus.

I invite you to write down some of the things that you hear in the sermon today and take your bulletin home as a tool to grow in your faith outside of worship. You can reflect on what you heard today, pray for people of our congregation and read scripture to prepare for worship next week.

### **Prayer**

Will you pray with me? O God, use these words to speak good news so that as individuals and as a congregation we will fear nothing but sin, desire nothing but you and live as part of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

### ***Transition***

Let's go back, over 2,000 years to that Sunday morning and remember what it was like.

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## **Sunday Morning**

This was the day after the Sabbath, which was the Jewish holy day of rest. It was like tomorrow will be here in El Dorado. People were getting up and going about their regular business, but not all of them.

Mary Magdalene and a few other women were coming to the tomb to finish preparing Jesus' body for burial.

He had died on Friday afternoon. They could not do these preparations on Friday because the Sabbath began at sundown and touching a dead body made you ritually unclean. So, here they are, finishing the work on Sunday morning.

## Open Tomb

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

Not only that, but when she came closer she saw that the tomb was empty. Jesus body was gone.  
“Grave robbers...” she thinks.

## 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.”<sup>3</sup>

So, they head back to where they are staying.  
What else are they going to do?

## Transition

The only person left at the tomb is Mary.  
She is crying at the death of a friend and the insult of his body stolen.

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## Dark Places in Our World

### Personal Connection

I wonder if you have you found yourself in a place like that.  
A place that is filled with darkness.  
Circumstances where you do not know where to turn.  
Times when it seems that hate, evil and death are overwhelming  
And you find yourself feeling all alone.

You may be in that place today.  
If you are not, you know what it feels like.

### Evil Without

The truth is bad things that happen in our lives.  
Life does not always go perfectly.

People are oppressed, ignored and turn to hate instead love.  
We live in a world where:

- children are abused.
- people don’t have enough food to eat or safe places to live.

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<sup>2</sup> John 20:1, CEB.

<sup>3</sup> John 20:9, CEB.

A world where:

- a plane was deliberately guided toward the ground and crashed in the French Alps killing 150 people.
- militants slaughtered nearly 150 students at a university in Kenya

Evil is real in our world.

## **Evil Within**

But it is not just the things on the outside.

When we are truthful with ourselves, there is some darkness that lurks inside each of us. This is the human condition. When left to ourselves:

- We act selfishly instead of generously.
- We ignore the needs of other people.
- We act in ways that break down our relationship with God and other people.

## **Transition**

So, what does Easter mean for our lives today?

How does something that happened so long ago make a difference in the face of all this?

That question is at the heart of the story of Easter and God's response to the human condition.

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## **The Story of Easter**

### **God's response to the human condition**

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 this, our human condition, is not to force us into line and crush anyone who disagrees.

Instead, he sends his only son to win us over by his love.

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

### **Jesus' Teaching about God's Kingdom**

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

He showed us what it is like to live as one of God's own children.

God's kingdom is a place in which

- The first are last and the last are first.
- The sinners who repent enter before the righteous people who are filled with false virtue.



God's kingdom is:

- Like a wedding banquet to which all are invited and yet some ignore the invitation.
- Like a father who waits for his messed up son to come home. When he does, he throws a party and celebrates

This is the kingdom that Jesus proclaims.

This is God's response to our human condition – the darkness we find around us and inside us.

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

### **Jesus takes on evil**

For some, this was too much to take.

Jesus was a threat.

He needed to be eliminated.

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

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

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

The darkness that is inside each of us – those things which we have said and done which we wish no one would ever know about.

Jesus carried all of it as he suffered and died on the cross.

When Jesus died, 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***

Yet, here we find Mary, crying and alone.

The wheels seem to have come off her life.

She is in a very dark place.

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### **Conclusion**

It is in this place, that Jesus meets her.

At first, she thinks he is the gardener.

Until he calls her by name.

Then, she turns and recognizes Jesus.

He is not dead, he is alive.

He is risen from the dead.

He is risen, just as he said!

### **Good News**

This is the good news of Easter: Jesus, the one who died, lives!

## **Call to Action**

This makes a difference in our lives today because the living Jesus meets us in the darkest times of our life.

Jesus calls us by name and invites us to turn and see him.

Then, to get up and follow him.

Our mission here at First United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

That all people might turn, and see Jesus.

That every person might follow after him with all their heart, soul, mind and strength.

## ***Hope for Eternity***

We look forward to the day when Christ returns. This will be a day when there will be no more sorrow, no more pain and no more suffering for the old will have passed away. Christ lives at Easter and Christ will live forever.

## ***Hope for Now***

The good news of Easter is not just for some time in the future or at the end of our life. It has real meaning, right now. We can live as a part of God's kingdom today – in our everyday life.

God offers us the opportunity to experience a life filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness and self-control. This is the life that God offers as we follow the resurrected Jesus.

## ***Transition***

I want to recognize that some of you may be saying, "That sounds nice."

But you don't understand my life.

This story of resurrection, it is nice enough.

But really, preacher? You believe that is true?

## **Truth of the Story**

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 being changed right here in El Dorado.

I have felt it. I have seen it.

I see it in you.

The power of the risen Christ to forgive, begin again, grow deeper and follow all of our days. All this is possible because Jesus, the one who died, lives!

## ***No Easy Life***

Being a follower of Jesus does not mean that you will have an easy life.

God knows what it is like to experience suffering.

God knows what it is like to see the death of a son, but death is not the end of the story. Jesus has been raised.

### ***Worst Thing is Never the Last Thing***

No matter what tragedy, loss or darkness is real for you now, the worst thing you can imagine is never the last thing.

There will be a time when our tears will be replaced by laughter.

Our confusion will be clarified.

Our shattered relationships will be healed by forgiveness and reconciliation.

The power of the resurrection is stronger than any darkness or evil we may face.

There is always hope.

This is what Easter means for our lives today.

### **Invitation**

You may find yourself saying, I think I want a life like that.

I want to follow Jesus and experience the power of the resurrection.

I want to live knowing that I will rise.

I want to be certain that death, darkness and evil will not have the final word.

You can.

Christ invites us to live this way.

It's a very simple thing:

- Turn away from the things that we know are wrong. Say, "I'm sorry."
  - To say, "Thank you, Jesus, for dying and rising for us."
  - "Please fill me with your Spirit and help me to follow you."
- Sorry, thank you, please.

### ***Transition***

If you say, I'm not so sure but I want to find out more about Jesus and being part of a Christian community, then I invite you to get connected here at First United Methodist Church. We would to help you find out more.

If you would like to pray that prayer right now, I invite you to join me.

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

You can repeat after me.

Jesus, the one who died, lives!

He is here. He is alive. You can follow him today.

Will you pray with me?

### **Closing Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, I'm sorry for the things in my life that have been wrong.

Forgive me everything that I know is wrong.

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

I trust you with my life.

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Please fill me with your Spirit and help me to follow you.  
In your holy name. Amen.

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Sermon Time		