

Media and Graphics Notes

Sermon Starter Video?	No
Sermon Notes?	No
Other Notes	

Key Questions

What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about the darkness, chaos and despair in the lives of the disciples and our own lives.

Why is this sermon important?

This sermon is important because we tend to forget or ignore the darkness, chaos and despair in our lives.

What is the context of this sermon?

This sermon is preached on Holy Thursday 2015. It is a combined worship service with First Presbyterian Church. The content is taken from "Maundy Thursday" an article by Heather Ryniker found online at: <http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/blog/entry/2651/maundy-thursday>

What are the next action steps?

Name the darkness in our own lives.

What is the good news (bottom line)?

We cannot go to the empty tomb without first standing at the cross.



Metadata

Topic(s)

1. Make Disciples

Sermon Books of the Bible

1. 1 Corinthians
2. Exodus
3. John

Holy Thursday
Mark - Service of Communion and Shadows Sermon
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado
Text Online at <http://j.mp/1Q1T0gY>

March 24, 2016
Exodus 12:1-13
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Preaching Target Word Count: 2,142
Audio Online at <http://j.mp/1Unorp0>

Tags

sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, Eldorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, HolyThursday, fear, chaos, despair

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Exodus 12:1-14, CEB

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, “This month will be the first month; it will be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole Israelite community: On the tenth day of this month they must take a lamb for each household, a lamb per house. If a household is too small for a lamb, it should share one with a neighbor nearby. You should divide the lamb in proportion to the number of people who will be eating it. Your lamb should be a flawless year-old male. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You should keep close watch over it until the fourteenth day of this month. At twilight on that day, the whole assembled Israelite community should slaughter their lambs. They should take some of the blood and smear it on the two doorposts and on the beam over the door of the houses in which they are eating. That same night they should eat the meat roasted over the fire. They should eat it along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Don’t eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over fire with its head, legs, and internal organs. Don’t let any of it remain until morning, and burn any of it left over in the morning. This is how you should eat it. You should be dressed, with your sandals on your feet and your walking stick in your hand. You should eat the meal in a hurry. It is the Passover of the Lord. I’ll pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I’ll strike down every oldest child in the land of Egypt, both humans and animals. I’ll impose judgments on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood will be your sign on the houses where you live. Whenever I see the blood, I’ll pass over you. No plague will destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. “This day will be a day of remembering for you. You will observe it as a festival to the Lord. You will observe it in every generation as a regulation for all time.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26, CEB

I received a tradition from the Lord, which I also handed on to you: on the night on which he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread. After giving thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this to remember me.” He did the same thing with the cup, after they had eaten, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Every time you drink it, do this to remember me.” Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you broadcast the death of the Lord until he comes.

John 13:1-17, 31-35, CEB

Before the Festival of Passover, Jesus knew that his time had come to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them fully. Jesus and his disciples were sharing the evening meal. The devil had already provoked Judas, Simon Iscariot’s son, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew the Father had given everything into his hands and that he had come from God and was returning to God. So he got up from the table and took off his robes. Picking up a linen towel, he tied

it around his waist. Then he poured water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he was wearing. When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You don't understand what I'm doing now, but you will understand later." "No!" Peter said. "You will never wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't have a place with me." Simon Peter said, "Lord, not only my feet but also my hands and my head!" Jesus responded, "Those who have bathed need only to have their feet washed, because they are completely clean. You disciples are clean, but not every one of you." He knew who would betray him. That's why he said, "Not every one of you is clean." After he washed the disciples' feet, he put on his robes and returned to his place at the table. He said to them, "Do you know what I've done for you? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you speak correctly, because I am. If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other's feet. I have given you an example: Just as I have done, you also must do. I assure you, servants aren't greater than their master, nor are those who are sent greater than the one who sent them. Since you know these things, you will be happy if you do them.

When Judas was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Human One has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify the Human One in himself and will glorify him immediately. Little children, I'm with you for a little while longer. You will look for me—but, just as I told the Jewish leaders, I also tell you now—'Where I'm going, you can't come.' "I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other."

Response to Scripture

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Opening Story

[Text here]

Transition

[Text here]

Darkness and Emptiness after the Last Supper

Let us go to the Mount of Olives for a moment. Jesus is praying and asking God that he not have to suffer – we can sense in his words a great deal of fear and anxiety. He is overwhelmed with grief when he finds that even his disciples were unable to keep vigil. Jesus is arrested – he has been betrayed, he is alone, in agony, despair and feels the deepest levels of loneliness. The disciples scatter in the midst of the arrest. Peter

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denies Jesus; bitter weeping ensues. Darkness and emptiness enclose upon those who were closest to Jesus.

Chaos, Fear and Despair for the Disciples

We live with an interesting dichotomy in the next three days. We are on this side of the Resurrection and yet our faith invites us to spend these few days in repentance and mourning. Can you imagine the utter chaos, fear, loneliness, and despair that the scattered disciples must have felt. Their beloved teacher and leader was gone! They had not yet witnessed the resurrection. From where we are, is it even possible to know how they felt that night or the next day watching Jesus die on the Cross?

Chaos, Fear and Despair for Us

There is no doubt in my mind that you, or maybe a family member, a colleague, those we encounter on the street have experienced some form of grief, depression, sickness, hopelessness. We try to tend to those in our midst with care and compassion. In general though, we often run from suffering and despair.

We hide it in ourselves because we don't want to make others feel uneasy or we discreetly step away from those we encounter in this state because we're not sure what to say or we end up offering some platitude. Silence often makes us feel uncomfortable. What we really want is to make it all better, and quickly!

Conclusion

Good News

We cannot go to the empty tomb without first standing at the cross.

Call to Action

We cannot get around it today or tomorrow – the communion table is shrouded. Despite the desperate need to do so, don't run from it or from those who do not yet know the joy of the Resurrection. For the next couple of days, allow yourself the space to contemplate what the Cross means for our world.

Invitation

When you gather for worship on Easter, give thanks and praise that our Lord is present and real!

Closing Prayer

[Text here]