

Pastor Roy's Sermon from April 21, 2019 (Easter Sunday)

Luke tells us of women who noted where Jesus was buried before the Sabbath began and then returned early in the morning after the Sabbath to give Jesus a proper burial. According to Luke, there were a number of women who went along to anoint Jesus and bring some closure. They are met by the angels who ask, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee that the Son of Man must be handed over, be crucified, and on the third day rise again? They remembered.

But when the women went and told the 11 disciples and others, the men forgot—they did not remember. They thought they were making it up. Remember the story of Thomas, that he did not believe even when everyone said Jesus had appeared to them.

**I hear Luke asking us, "And you? Do you remember that the Son of Man was to be handed over, be crucified, and on the third day rise again?"
What does that mean to you?**

The word remember in the New Testament is more than a haphazard recall of random facts and details. No, to remember is to **get** it. To remember is to prevent something from being forgotten, to hold onto it--in our hands, in our minds. To make it **be** again. Re-member

In our faith we remember Christ and understand that **this** is what it's all about. **This** is the essence of our life, our life together. **This** is the sign of our faith. Jesus is life. Christ is alive. His life is not gone, irrelevant. But it is here among us, in our bodies, at our table, in our service, in acts of love. Our crucified, risen, Lord is here, not back in a story that we try to recall and relive from 2000 years ago. The messengers said, "Do not look for the living among the dead! He is alive. His life goes on with us today. No different than with Mary Magdalene, **and** the slow to believe disciples.

How do we know the presence of our risen Lord? Can we hear our Lord in prayer? I'm not talking about imagination. If we commit to waiting and

listening, we find we are in the presence of our risen Lord. No one else can tell you exactly how you experience the present and living Lord. Christ brings courage and is the foundation of all we are and do as children of God.

And anything less than the whole universe gathered under one head—Christ—is too small to be the Risen Lord. This Lord refuses to leave anyone or anything behind. All is gathered in complete brilliance of faithful, nurturing all-embracing love.

The clouds and rain, the blue sky, the flowers and trees, the ocean, the mountains, the black holes, each animal and each relationship is part of the web and presence of the risen Lord of Life. The power of the resurrection is behind, under, and in all.

So today, how do you remember the risen Lord? How is the Spirit of Christ at work in you for courage?

Our Lord Jesus Christ gave his life for the weak, forgotten, nameless, as well as the strong and remembered. This Risen Lord is the power of God reminding us that we can live in love, with a life which never ends. The resurrection is at work in us, and in our community. We cannot ever be separated from this enduring life, this living Lord who is pulling everything together in love, for good.

Today we remember our Lord--crucified and risen--whose life moves out and returns from every direction in unity and fellowship. Thanks be to God.