

SB, TS, CC & Wallaceburg Pastoral Charges

SONRise Service – April 12th, 2020

Welcome & Announcements:

Welcome by all three: Sharon, Andrew and Eric:

Saying Goodbye: - by Susan Holmes

It is confusing. Good-bye always means going away, but there are things that stay, a heart broken and the Spirit, shrewd and pushy as a public defender.

Then there is the paranormal stuff we will never mention – seeing the one we are missing when no one else thinks anyone is there, hearing the whisper, watching for the rainbow.

Jesus wanted to point out that there was going to be nothing simple about saying “good-bye,” not to him or anyone else. In fact, it would be so hard - that loving one another needs to become a commandment – something we have to do, after picking the casket or the urn, thanking people, donating the clothes.

Love is the job of all the unorphans in the world.

Standing in the Dark: “Mary Magdalene” – by Sharon

The sun is nowhere to be found. The early dawn light is just showing in the horizon. Here I am walking down the garden path in the darkness towards the tomb. Because of the Passover we had to bury my friend Jesus quickly. Today, we the women are meeting here in a bit to anoint his body with spices and aloes. I have come early as I want to sit in the silence and try to figure out what I will do without Jesus.

Jesus talked a lot about the Holy Spirit being with us. Oh how I wish the Holy Spirit would be with me now. I feel so alone. I’m not really sure how I’d know the Holy Spirit is with me. What should I feel? Will I hear a voice in my head? Is the Holy Spirit like a ghost that I will see in front of me? Sometimes I feel sad when I think of my mom and grandmother, and then I am sure I can feel their touch on my back, or a soft brush against my cheek. Once I was dreaming and felt my mom giving a big bear hug – like she did when I was a small child. Could that be like the Holy Spirit?

At those times when I think I feel my mom or grandma, I want to tell somebody – but I don’t. People will think I am crazy. They say that Jesus clean me of my demons. I was there. What Jesus showed me is those demons do not define who I am. Those demons were working on my mind, telling me that I was “Trash”. Jesus looked at me – right in the eye, and told me, “You are a Child of God and God loves you. Live like the Child of God, that God created you to be”. I remember the weight lifted off my shoulders, and I felt free for the first time I can remember. So no, I do not share those “feelings” or vision of my dead mom or grandmother.

But I wonder, “If this Holy Spirit Jesus talks about comes to me, would I be brave enough to tell others, “I’ve have seen the Holy Spirit”. I don’t know. I hope I will know when it happens.

There’s the tomb. I can just see the side of the tomb, in the dim dawn light. I think I’ll sit her on this stone until the women get here with their spices and aloes.

Moment of Reflection: (from Good Friday)

Sharon: So here we are, standing where we never thought we could, at the foot of death, crushed under the fickleness of humanity. The heart of heaven has stopped. All that hope, the dreams of peace, the promises of justice you so burned with, snuffed out, with a few nails and a cross beam.

Eric: O Jesus, what do we do now? What is there left to do? **Silence**

Andrew: It is a cold place where the breath of heaven stops. It is a frightening place. It is a lonely place. This is what the world does, to love, and then turns its back, rubbing its hands, finished with its final enemy.

Eric: O Jesus, what do we do now? What is there left to do? **Silence**

Sharon: The Saviour had died, and the future can seem lost, out of our grasp. Light is swamped.

Eric: O Jesus, what do we do now? What is there left to do? **Silence**

Andrew: What do we do now? We wait beyond eternity...

Sharon: We hope beyond every hope we’ve ever had...

Andrew: We trust beyond belief...

Sharon: in a God who cannot leave it here.

Song: “Where You There”? *Innerkip United Church – Youth Choir*

- 1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

- 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

- 4 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Scripture: John 20: 1 – 18 – JoAn Dale

Mary Magdalene was the first one to notice something strange. She had gone to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and she noticed that the stone had been moved away. Then she ran to tell Simon Peter and another disciple and they ran at once to the tomb to see for themselves. The other disciple got there first and bent over to look into the tomb. He saw the cloths lying there but nothing else. Simon Peter went in to make sure that the body was really missing. He found the cloth that Jesus' body had been wrapped in and the cloth saw that had covered his head, but nothing else. So, they went back home.

But Mary Magdalene stayed at the tomb, weeping. When she bent down to look in, she saw not linen wrappings or head cloths, but two angels, sitting where Jesus' body had been lying. The angels asked her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

Mary Magdalene answered, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

When she turned around, she saw another man standing there, who also asked her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?"

Supposing that he was the gardener, she answered: "Sir, if you have carried Jesus away, tell me where he is, and I will take him with me."

At this point, the man spoke again in a voice that Mary Magdalene knew and loved more than anything. "Mary," he said.

She turned and said, "Teacher!"

Jesus said, "Don't hold on to me here. Instead, go to the others and tell them that I am going back to your God and my God."

Mary Magdalene did as Jesus said. She went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them everything he had told her, early in the morning, when she had heard a gardener call her by name.

Mary with the Disciples: "Mary Magdalene" – by Sharon

"I Have Seen The Lord", Mary shouted as she gasped for breath. She had just ran all the way back from the tomb, where she had talked to Jesus. Actually at first, she thought he was the Gardener. Then she heard his voice. She knew, she knew it was Jesus!

The disciples thought I was crazy! Didn't I tell you? If I shared even a bit of my feelings of knowing dead people – THEY'D think I was crazy. This proves it!!!

Who cares? I heard the Lord! I heard Jesus call my name! Me – I heard him call Mary! Who cares what they think? Jesus didn't talk to Simon Peter or his favourite disciple when they where there. No, Jesus talked to me! To me! I don't care what other people think – I heard Jesus call my name! Is this

what it feels like to receive the Holy Spirit? Is this what Jesus was telling us about? Wow – if it is - bring her on!!

I am so really excited right now I could run up and down the streets telling everyone. Think they'd listen? No – they'd just think I am crazy!

I am crazy! Crazy in love with my God! Crazy in love with knowing that Jesus is alive! Hallelujah, Jesus is alive! We are not alone! Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!

Benediction:

Andrew: What do we do now? We celebrate!

Sharon: We hoped beyond every hope we've ever had, and God brings forth new life!

Eric: We trusted beyond belief and God did not leave Jesus in the tomb!

Andrew: God will not leave us in the grave!

Sharon: In Christ, we have new Life!

Eric: Hallelujah! He has Risen! So are we – now and forever more!

Celebration Song: “He Lives” – www.gospelmusichymnsing.com

I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today;
I know that He is living, whatever men may say;
I see His hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him, He's always near.

Refrain: He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
along life's narrow way,
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing,
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek Him, the help of all who find,
None other is so loving, so good and kind. *Refrain:*

Refrain: He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
along life's narrow way,
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.