

May 17th Bulletin

Announcements...

- Masks still available
- Several people willing to do porch deliveries
- Please keep checking in on each other

Call to Worship: from Psalm 27

Pastor: The Lord is my light and my salvation;

People: *Whom shall I fear?*

Pastor: The Lord is the stronghold of my life;

People: *Of whom shall I be afraid?*

Hymn – #502 Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come;
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Opening Prayer and Prayer of Confession

Solo – How Great Thou Art

Scripture: John 20:19-31

Sermon Notes

- Mary Magdalene, just that morning, had declared to the disciples that Jesus had been raised from the dead. That evening, they were cowering in a home.
- Jesus came to talk to them. He had appeared to Mary Magdalene, he now appeared to all the disciples except Thomas, and then to Thomas.
- Grief...
 - These disciples were despondent. Mary Magdalene had told them about Jesus, but they evidently didn't believe her.
 - There will be times in our lives when we suffer grief—we grieve the loss of loved ones. Our grief isn't the end of the story. The voice of Jesus releases us from being swallowed by our grief.

- Fear...
 - Jesus had been crucified for doing nothing wrong—they were trumped up charges. Would they come after his followers next? It was a real fear.
 - Jesus has a peace that the world cannot give.
 - Have we ever fled when the going got tough? Probably.
 - The Bible says “do not fear” over 365 times...pictures and signs that say, “that’s one for every day of the year.” Christ’s presence can help us defeat fear as we trust that he has done what he always said he was going to do.
- Doubt...
 - When we think of Thomas, this is often the passage that we think of.
 - Greek says: “I’m not going to believe until I can literally stuff my hand into his side.”
 - Don’t we say that sometimes? “Prove it?”
 - Thomas said. “My Lord and my God.” He got it. He called Jesus not just his Lord but his God. The term “lord” was used frequently in that day to address someone in authority. But Thomas also said, “my God.” He fully understood that Jesus was human and divine.
 - When Jesus told Thomas to stop doubting and believe, the Greek there indicated action. The best translation is, “don’t doubt, but continue believing in me and let your actions prove it.”
- Where is the grief, fear, and doubt in our lives? Is Jesus in the midst of it, or have we pushed him off to a side?

Time of Prayer...feel free to text or email additions throughout the week

If you have prayer requests, please send them via Facebook Messenger or text me directly. Because we are live-streaming, please get permission before sending the request. Also, only first names will be mentioned and medical conditions will be kept deliberately vague. God knows who we are praying for and what's going on with the person. But since we don't know who all will be listening to this, we want to protect privacy.

Benediction