

Terror and Amazement

April 4 – 18, 2021

“you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here.” – Mark 16:6

Easter is a time of light and hope, joy and amazement. It is all these things only because it comes in a moment of profound loss and grief, pain and suffering. As disciples, we, like the first followers, encounter a world that is not as God would have it be. We inhabit communities that may struggle to imagine hope. Into our pain, the resurrected Christ comes, showing us a new way, a light in the darkness.

April 4 – Beyond Hope

“terror and amazement had seized them” – Mark 16:8

Mark 16:1-8; Isaiah 25:6-9

In grief and in pain we approach the tomb. But all is not as we expect. Our anxiety spikes because the body is gone, someone has violated all that should be held dear. In our moment of fear, we hear these words, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here.” (Mark 16:6) God takes our fear and holds it, gives us good news in its place. Yet, as awe-struck as we are, hope struggles to break through.

April 11 – Living Doubt

“we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us” – 1 John 1:3

John 20:19-31; 1 John 1:1-2:2

Christ is Risen! Amazing good news that should give us confident hope that all will be well. But our anxiety persists. All is not well, so we hide ourselves away in fear and doubt. We want proof before we risk more, before we change too much to live into Jesus' call. Into our fear, our doubt, our grief, Jesus comes. Peace. I am with you. God is with you. Together we will live out the good news that Christ is indeed risen.

April 18 – Witnessing Faith

“You are witnesses of these things.” – Luke 24:48

Luke 24:36b-48; 1 John 3:1-7

We are not expecting the ways Jesus shows up in our lives. We have experienced violence and loss and we just want to figure out how we move on in this new, seemingly leaderless world. But there Jesus is, sitting down to eat with us; speaking peace into our fears; reminding us that we are children of God too. Our minds and hearts are opened and transformed so that we may take this peace and hope, this good news and love, to all the world.