

April 26, 2020

## Glendive and Wibaux UMCs

Welcome to worship this morning with Glendive United Methodist Church. I am Pastor Carol Rhan. We have been so honored by your attendance, live or later, in these recent weeks. We are creating a new thing. We'd like to know if your viewing or just stopping in, so to speak. So, during this service, would you just click the Like button or leave a comment or emoji. That would be helpful.

Let me begin by announcing that pursuant to guidance from the Mountain Sky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church along with planned reopening of Montana activities and actions of the Glendive United Methodist Church Administrative board, we will continue to worship via Facebook Live through May 31, 2020. If you have any questions please just send me a message.

Let us pray: Eternal One, bless those who are doing new things today. As we move into new normal, keeping what worked in the past and shedding what didn't, let us remember that you are the same yesterday, today and tomorrow and your thing never waivers: you love us, you ask us to love you and our neighbors, you ask us to be resent with you and you will give us grace and forgiveness. This is not a quid pro quo because we have your love and mercy and grace, even in our failings. I pray we all hear or feel something new in our hearts in the next few minutes and may the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable to you. Amen

**Acts 2:36-41** Peter is continuing his sermon from last week's message.

"All Israel, then, know this: There's no longer room for doubt—God made him Master and Messiah, this Jesus whom you killed on a cross."

<sup>37</sup> Cut to the quick, those who were there listening asked Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers! Brothers! So now what do we do?"

<sup>38-39</sup> Peter said, "Change your life. Turn to God and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are forgiven. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is targeted to you and your children, but also to all who are far away—whomever, in fact, our Master God invites."

<sup>40</sup> He went on in this vein for a long time, urging them over and over, “Get out while you can; get out of this sick and stupid culture!”

<sup>41-42</sup> That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up.

## **Psalm 116**

I love God because he listened to me,

listened as I begged for mercy.

He listened so intently

as I laid out my case before him.

Death stared me in the face,

hell was hard on my heels.

Up against it, I didn’t know which way to turn;

then I called out to God for help:

“Please, God!” I cried out.

“Save my life!”

God is gracious—it is he who makes things right,

our most compassionate God.

God takes the side of the helpless;

when I was at the end of my rope, he saved me.

What can I give back to God

for the blessings he’s poured out on me?

I’ll lift high the cup of salvation—a toast to God!

I’ll pray in the name of God;

I'll complete what I promised God I'd do,

and I'll do it together with his people.

When they arrive at the gates of death,

God welcomes those who love him.

Oh, God, here I am, your servant,

your faithful servant: set me free for your service!

I'm ready to offer the thanksgiving sacrifice

and pray in the name of God.

I'll complete what I promised God I'd do,

and I'll do it in company with his people,

In the place of worship, in God's house,

in Jerusalem, God's city.

Hallelujah!

### **1 Peter 1:17-23**

17 You call out to God for help and he helps—he's a good Father that way. But don't forget, he's also a responsible Father, and won't let you get by with sloppy living.

18-21 Your life is a journey you must travel with a deep consciousness of God. It cost God plenty to get you out of that dead-end, empty-headed life you grew up in. He paid with Christ's sacred blood, you know. He died like an unblemished, sacrificial lamb. And this was no afterthought. Even though it has only lately—at the end of the ages—become public knowledge, God always knew he was going to do this for you. It's because of this sacrificed Messiah, whom God then raised from the dead and glorified, that you trust God, that you know you have a future in God.

22-25 Now that you've cleaned up your lives by following the truth, love one another as if your lives depended on it. Your new life is not like your old life.

## **Luke 24:13-35** On the Road to Emmaus

That same day two of them were walking to the village Emmaus, about seven miles out of Jerusalem. They were deep in conversation, going over all these things that had happened. In the middle of their talk and questions, Jesus came up and walked along with them. But they were not able to recognize who he was.

17-18 He asked, “What’s this you’re discussing so intently as you walk along?”

They just stood there, long-faced, like they had lost their best friend. Then one of them, his name was Cleopas, said, “Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn’t heard what’s happened during the last few days?”

19-24 He said, “What has happened?”

They said, “The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene. He was a man of God, a prophet, dynamic in work and word, blessed by both God and all the people. Then our high priests and leaders betrayed him, got him sentenced to death, and crucified him. And we had our hopes up that he was the One, the One about to deliver Israel. And it is now the third day since it happened. But now some of our women have completely confused us. Early this morning they were at the tomb and couldn’t find his body. They came back with the story that they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive. Some of our friends went off to the tomb to check and found it empty just as the women said, but they didn’t see Jesus.”

25-27 Then he said to them, “So thick-headed! So slow-hearted! Why can’t you simply believe all that the prophets said? Don’t you see that these things had to happen, that the Messiah had to suffer and only then enter into his glory?” Then he started at the beginning, with the Books of Moses, and went on through all the Prophets, pointing out everything in the Scriptures that referred to him.

28-31 They came to the edge of the village where they were headed. He acted as if he were going on but they pressed him: “Stay and have supper with us. It’s nearly evening; the day is done.” So he went in with them. And here is what happened: He sat down at the table with them. Taking the bread, he blessed and broke and gave it to them. At that moment, open-eyed, wide-eyed, they recognized him. And then he disappeared.

32 Back and forth they talked. “Didn’t we feel on fire as he conversed with us on the road, as he opened up the Scriptures for us?”

## A Ghost Doesn't Have Muscle and Bone

33-34 They didn't waste a minute. They were up and on their way back to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and their friends gathered together, talking away: "It's really happened! The Master has been raised up—Simon saw him!"

35 Then the two went over everything that happened on the road and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.

DOXOLOGY   Praise God from whom all blessing flow.

Now that you've cleaned up your lives by following the truth, love one another as if your lives depended on it. Your new life is not like your old life. 1 Peter 1:23

More prophetic words have rarely been said, especially on this very day. Yet what is truth, whose truth do you follow. Do we make up our own truths? When I speak of God, sometimes I say, "the God of my understanding," such-n-such. I could have it wrong. I don't think so, but... I think this divisiveness over what today's truths are in any given situation goes to the heart of how we approach the truth of God. Who do you believe? How do you share your beliefs and do you as the disciples on that road to Emmaus go out and share your truths. , is and then This is the underlying worry concern human nature; to not grasp that new lives cannot be like old lives. We're not going back to the way we did things because of the pandemic: a worldwide ongoing event that has chased all of us in one way or another. Last week I mentioned how we cannot outrun our fears. This week, once we're caught up with and overcome our fears, we can't go back.

The first step is to recognize our new truths. It's said, the truth will set you free. We know the truth will set you free. But Flannery O'Connor , an essayist, short story writer and novelist from Georgia, is quoted as saying, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you odd." Her themes were mostly religion and southern life.

When we are changing, when we are revived in faith or have established new and conceivably better life habits, we may feel a bit odd. Maybe friends don't like the new you. If you give up alcohol you generally need to give up your drinking friends, and even monikers. This may make you feel odd and them uncomfortable. IF you quit smoking for a better life, you have to stay away from smoking triggers. It is similar with our new lives in Jesus. WE can't always stay away from all temptations, but we now have better ways to resist. When your trying to love your neighbor, especially one you never like, the temptation would e to move onto some other temptation that more comfortable to overcome, easier to do.