

April 19, 2020 Sunday Sermon

John 20:19-23 “The Resurrection of Christ - Peace be with You)

Good morning! What a beautiful Day! We celebrate the risen Christ every Sunday.

**After Jesus’ resurrection, he first appeared to Mary Magdalene. He then appeared to his eleven disciples.**

On the evening of the Sunday that Jesus rose from the dead, the disciples were frightened and were gathered behind closed doors. They were hiding because they were afraid of Jews. What if they kill me, just like the killed our master, Jesus. They were so scared. So they were hiding.

Then, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, **“Peace be with you.”** When he said this, he showed them his hands and his side.

Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. **Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”** And when he said this, **he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”**

**All throughout our lives**, how many times do **we hide behind** the closed doors because of fear, anxiety and uncertainty? But you know what? Jesus still finds us behind the closed doors. No matter where we are, Jesus comes to us give us peace. Jesus still connects us to him and others. Fear, anxiety and uncertainty will not stop Jesus coming to us.

**We all have some fear in our lives, especially in this difficult time. And yes, into that fear Jesus comes.**

*Jesus who has risen from the dead comes to help us to overcome fear. So, our lives could go on! **The song “Tomorrow” by Annie always inspires me to think about better tomorrow whenever I struggle with what is going on today.***

Just thinkin' about, Tomorrow, Clears away the cobwebs,  
 And the sorrow 'Til there's none!  
 When I'm stuck with a day  
**That's gray**, and lonely,  
 I just stick out my chin and Grin,

And Say,  
 Oh, The sun'll come out  
 Tomorrow  
 So ya gotta hang on 'Til tomorrow  
 Come what may, tomorrow!  
 I love ya tomorrow!  
 You're always  
 A day, A way!

Look for a brighter tomorrow. There's always a reason for us to go on. We turn to Jesus in our fear and he comes to comfort us.

**“Fear not I am with you, be not dismayed, I am your God, I will help you” (Isaih 41:10)**

Jesus has given us the gifts of peace and power during this challenging time.

**No peace then Conflict.**

**No power then weakness.**

So many of us are lost by conflict and weakness. Then, Jesus comes to us to give peace, power, and purpose to live.

**Twice, Jesus said, “Peace be with you.”**

Jesus wanted to give us peace before anything else. Peace was made at the cross.

**“Jesus gives us peace because by his blood, he covered all our sins and fears.”**

Jesus stood before his disciples, **as a friend and a helper**; not to judge, **but to reconcile**.

To be reconciled to God is to be reconciled to other people. There is no racism or discrimination.

*Apostle Paul says that* **“Christ reconciled us both to God and others through the cross.”**

Peace with Jesus. Peace with others in Christ. Peace with ourselves. And peace with the world. That was an amazing achievement **at the cross**.

Peace, it is a gift from God. **We receive it. And it is free. We will not walk away from it.**

Jesus said to them again for the second time, *“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”*

His ultimate purpose for giving peace is for his disciples to receive the Holy Spirit. And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, **“Receive the Holy Spirit”**. There is power of the Holy Spirit.

**Our purpose in life is to do the will of God for the glory of God, and for the good of others.**

**Yes, we are at home a lot, well, actually more than a lot.** We are still anxious to know when we will get back to our “normal life”. **When? How safely? We do not know. So uncertain!** But, we still believe that God is in charge. And we trust God in peace.

*And we know that **life continues for us even today.** Right now, everyone has some kind of stress and fear.*

**But the bible says: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything be prayerful. Prayer and with thanksgiving, [we ask God for help]. And the *peace of God*, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7).**

Whether **in a pandemic or not in a pandemic**, we continue to trust God. Not fear, nor anxiety. **But peace of God in us.**

The blood he shed on the cross, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus are the reasons for our lives to go on. **We go on with life without giving up and in peace, even in this time of coronavirus.**

**For those who love God, all things work together for good..., (Romans 8:28).**

**The coronavirus is a wake-up question to the world, especially Christians: Will you still trust in God and find peace even in these troubled times?**

This is a hard question to answer for some of us, especially for those fighting at the frontlines, and especially those who lost their loved ones.

At the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, **the increased demand was put on health professionals and essential workers.**

They worked so hard to save people's lives. However, the battle is going much longer than what we all expected.

Many of those people are getting sick. They are scared not only for their own lives. But **"What if I make my loved ones, my family get sick."**

They are living in isolation. They are burnt out. And they often must grieve lost ones without the chance to say a goodbye.

But we still say, **"Let us not give-up!", "perseverance"**.

We continue to fight and have victory. Even though some of us may feel so tired, even though it feels like we are in a dark tunnel, and feel so lost, **now is the time to have perseverance.** We know that **every tunnel has an end.** So even if we may not see it right now, there is in fact **a light at the end of this tunnel. Until we reach that light, we will not give up. Perseverance.**

There is a covenant of God that he will be with us, that God is still telling us not to fear. **"My peace I give to you. Do not fear, for I am with you."**

**Neither tribulation, nor persecution, nor coronavirus, nor the end of the world can separate us from the love of Christ.**

***According to Romans 8:39 nothing can "separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:39).***

Therefore, we as Christians, **look up straight**, put a song in our hearts, continue to love our neighbor, and will not be afraid. **But live fearlessly.**

***Never give up! Perseverance. You and I, together, are a great reminder of how thankful we are for all the beauty we have in each of us.***

*In God we stay strong and healthy. May God continue to bless you. May you have God's peace in you. May you persevere until you see the end of the tunnel. God loves you.*

***"My peace I give to you. Do not fear, for I am with you." Thank God! Christ is risen from the dead! Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!!***