

E A S T E R S U N D A Y

March 31, 2024

Mark 16:1-8

"Now What?"

The gospel story this morning begins with two women setting out to perform a routine task. These women, along with their companions and good friends have had a most disconcerting week. First, they saw Jesus - the one who is to them teacher and healer and leader - welcomed into the city of Jerusalem, only to see the crowd and those closest to him turn on him, and then to witness his excruciating death. Now these two women - these two Marys - are heading toward the tomb to perform the distressing but necessary task of anointing the body of their friend who has died. A difficult task, yes, but a routine one.

Coming to the tomb to complete their task they find not, as they had expected, the heavy stone and the body of their teacher but instead a young man in white, an angel who gives them instructions that the text tells us they are too frightened to repeat.

Although some verses were added later, most scholars agree that the gospel of Mark originally ended here.: "So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." Not only does this verse fail to provide proper narrative closure, writes preacher Tom Long, it also lurches to an awkward grammatical stop. A more literal translation would read, "To no one anything they said; afraid they were for..." It is almost as if the author of this gospel of Mark had suddenly been dragged from his writing desk in mid-sentence.

Perhaps they were afraid because they realized in seeing the impossibly heavy stone moved easily away, in seeing the empty space where the dead body they had come to anoint was supposed to have been should have been that Jesus really was who he said he was. He was not only a teacher or a healer or a leader and their friend, but the Christ. And if that is true, and they really are going to follow him, it means the Marys' lives are going to be anything but routine from now on.

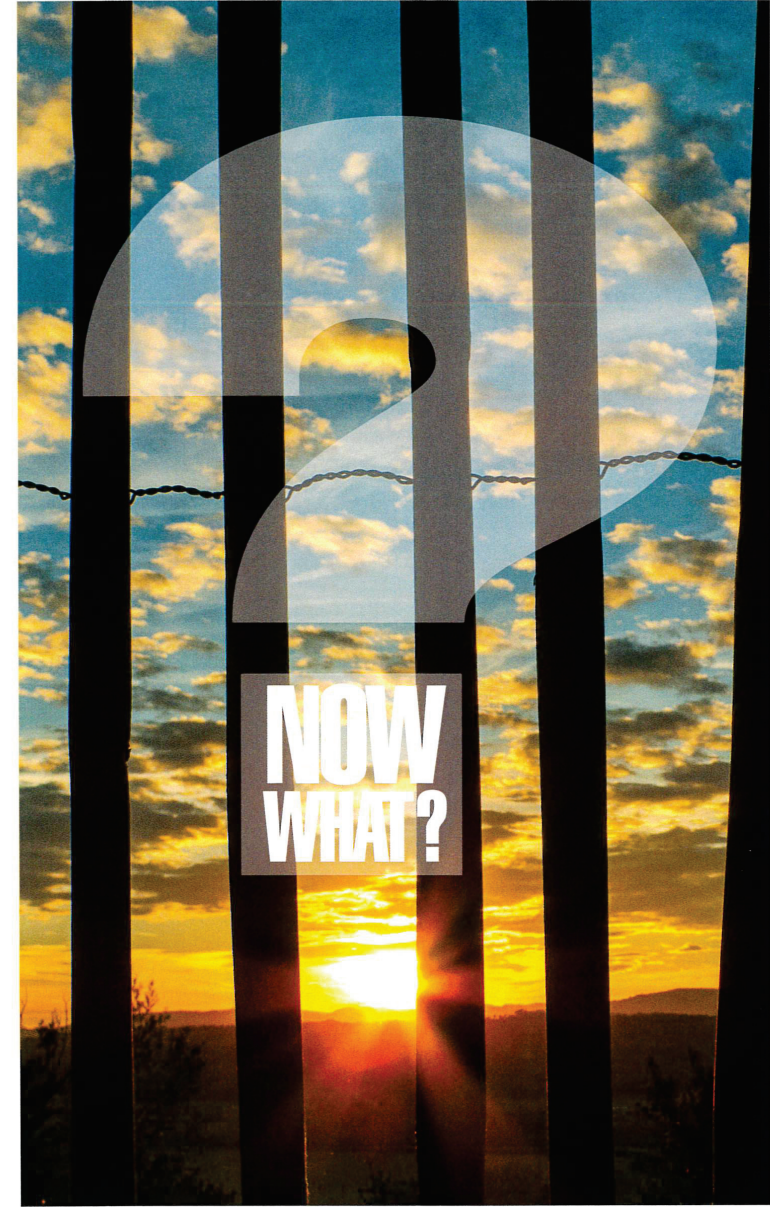
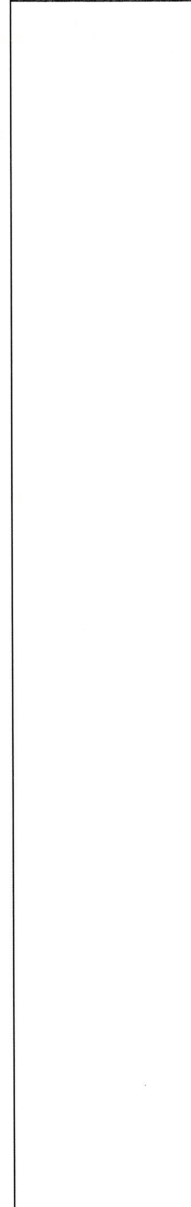
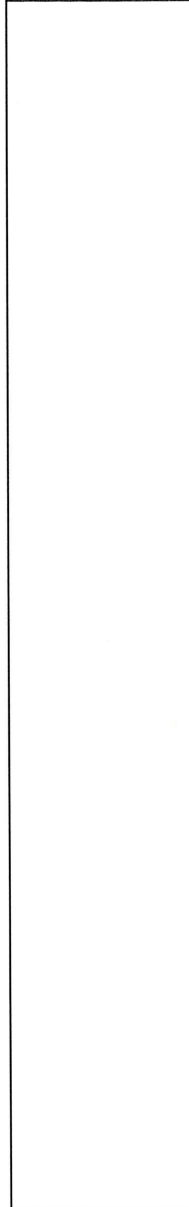
So, for a while they said nothing, as this new reality took root in their souls. But they couldn't keep silent forever. We know that, because although those two first witnesses said nothing to anyone, here you are on Easter morning twenty centuries later and half a world away, telling their story. It was a story too powerful, too holy, and too good to keep silent.

Happy Easter! This is your story now! And that awkward ending? It's not the end. It's just the beginning.



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE
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BUL0305





St. John's United Church of Christ
Easter Celebration
 March 31, 2024



* Please stand if it is comfortable to do so. L=Leader, P=People

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GREET ONE ANOTHER
UNLOCKING THE "ALLELUIA" - CHORAL RESPONSE

PRELUDE CHURCH BELLS

***CHORAL INTROIT** *Surely the Presence of the Lord* # 263

***GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP** (responsively)

L: The long night of darkness is over.

P: The stone is rolled away, the tomb is empty,

L: The sun begins to shine. The Son has risen!

P: It's a morning of glory, Of love overcoming death,

L: Of women spreading Good News, of men turning from despair.

P: It's a morning of joy, for Easter has come again.

L: Love is stronger than death,

P: And we lift our voices in song.

***OPENING HYMN** *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* #216

***WE INVITE GOD TO WORSHIP** (unison)

ALL: Loving God, as the day begins to brighten, shine your light into our lives. Chase the corners of sadness, expose our fears and bring us to the light of new hope, the dawn of possibility. Open us to your resurrection power that knows no boundaries. Fill us with incredible joy, everlasting peace and unquenchable hope this day and always. In the name of Jesus, the resurrected One. Amen.

***RESPONSE** *Celtic Alleluia* (sing chorus with music video)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (children come forward during *Jesus Loves Me* and depart during *Jesus Loves the Little Children*)

OFFERING INVITATION

L: God is so good and we are richly blessed. Let us give back to God with gratitude and thanksgiving.

***DOXOLOGY** #46

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

ALL: Gracious God, you have given us the ultimate gift in the death and resurrection of your Son. We humbly offer these gifts to you. Consecrate them to your use — that the ministry of this congregation might serve as a witness to those who still doubt. Amen.

ANTHEM *He Is Alive!* Choplin

SCRIPTURE: John 20: 1-18

L: This is the Word of God **P: Thanks be to God**

SERMON *The Resurrection Road*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Hymn *Festive Canticle* (sing chorus with music video)

Invitation

Communion Prayer

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Words of Institution; Consecration and Sharing of the Elements

Thanksgiving Prayer (unison)

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *Thine is the Glory* #218

***BLESSING** (responsively)

The stone has been rolled away and the tomb is empty! Go forth from this house of worship filled with amazement at the miracle God has performed! Alleluia!

We will sing and dance for joy! We will spread the word that Christ has been raised! Alleluia! Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *Go In Peace* #445

***POSTLUDE**



ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

- **Continuing Prayer Requests:** Bruce Deckard, Gary Meyer, Zoey Bahr, Don Osborne, Jr., Dale Linneweber, and family. For the family of Carole Klein, and Don Hoffhaus. For the silent trials and struggles everyone is carrying, let's include all in our prayers.
- Prayers are requested. Zoey Bahr had her gallbladder removed on March 22. We are told it could take her up to a month to feel better. Everyone is hopeful that removing her gallbladder will be the end of her pain.
- Jill Lopez has requested prayers for Prayers please for Gayle Huffer and Royce, her husband, as caregiver. She has multiple health issues and has been in the hospital. She is at home now recovering with various ongoing treatments.

Addresses for Shut-ins and Others

Norma Meyer, Colonial Assisted Living, - Room 142, 1622 S Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

Susie Milligan, Colonial Assisted Living, - Room 118, 1622 S Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

Leona Conway, Willow Manor, - Room 73B request correspondence be sent to 2009 Forbes Rd. Vincennes IN

Marge Beamon, Oak Village Health Care Center— Room 333 bed 2. Remains in rehab. Please send cards and notes to, 1401 Ritterskamp Avenue.

Franklyn Schroeder, Oak Village Health Care Center—Room 120 200 4th Street, Oaktown, IN 47561

Home

Alexander Family, PO Box 256, Monroe City, IN 47557 (Home address)

Bruce Deckard - 3599 E. Warren Cir, Vincennes IN 47591

If you have a caregiving need such as a hospital stay, a visit or desire communion, please contact the church office, Janet Goodman (co-chair of Caregivers) or any caregiver listed below. We would appreciate your help and want to make sure everyone is blessed by St. John's when you need it! St. John's UCC Caregivers- Ed and Brenda Cummings, Cindy Deckard (co-chair), Connie and Dan Coulter, Peggy Meyer, Ray Pieper, Terry and Janet Goodman, Lonny Vieck, Larry and Betsy Marchino.

BABE Store



What Is The BABE Store Mission?

This unique "store" provides incentives encouraging families to nurture healthy babies. Serving pregnant women and their children up to age three with no income restrictions to be able to participate in this program. Clients earn vouchers by keeping prenatal appointments, taking their children for immunizations and other activities, then redeeming the coupons at the BABE Store located in St. John's for merchandise from diapers to cribs and everything in between.



How Can I Help?

BABE relies on the support of individuals and organizations in Knox County. Tax deductible donations are accepted for new:

- High Chairs & Strollers
- Diapers & Wipes
- Baby Clothing
- Bottles & Pacifiers
- Bathing Supplies
- Potty Chairs
- Bedding
- Teething Rings & Rattles
- Financial Gifts

- Host a "Baby Shower" For BABE
- Volunteer At The Store
- Serve As A Board Member

HOURS OF OPERATION

12 noon - 4:30 pm
Monday's Only
Closed on Holidays

Contact

Peggy Meyer
812-886-9723

Cindy Deckard
812-887-2999

St. John's United Church of Christ
812-882-2720 www.myucc.org

ST. JOHN'S UCC STAFF and VOLUNTEERS

Pastor	Pastor Debbie Jo Atkins
Liturgist	Allison Cummins
Head Usher	Betsy Marchino
Organist	DeEtta Welte
Music Director, Pianist	Becky Brockman
Children /Family Ministry Coordinator	Will Meyer
Nursery Attendant	Darcie Bahr
Projection	Jana Vieck
Sound	Brian Fillingim
Church Secretary	Angie Robinson
Church Board President	Jana Vieck
Greeters	Jonathan & Chrissy Lange



Cereal Drop ...want to know more , read on! Some time in the near future St. John's UCC will be requesting new unopened box's (has to be a box) of cereal . Once we have collected several we will ask the children (and parents too!) to set each box up as you would dominos! Be watching bulletins for more information .



No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!



Virtual Worship Service is still available on the church website, myucc.org.
Worship Services are also "Live Streamed" on the Church's FACEBOOK page



THIS WEEK in the Life of St. John's **Easter SUNDAY, March 31**

Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship 10:30am

MONDAY, April 1

No Preschool

BABE Store 12-5:30

WEDNESDAY, April 3

Choir 7pm

THURSDAY, April 4

Dinner & Conversation 6pm Café Moonlight

FRIDAY, April 5

Phoebe's Mission 4:30-6 pm

LOOKING AHEAD

SUNDAY, April 7

Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship 10:30am

Outreach & Mission after Service

MONDAY, April 8

Solar Eclipse Day

All Closed

WEDNESDAY, April 10

Christian Education 6 pm

Choir 7pm

THURSDAY, April 11

Dinner & Conversation 6pm Bobe's Pizza Express (Washington, IN)

Girl Scouts 4:30-6:30pm

Easter Sunday 2024

In Memory Of:

Given By:

Loved Ones	Don & Shirley Black
Mark Lange	Christina, Jonathan, Aaron, Saundra
Parents Robin & Joan Root Brother Brad Root	Their Family
Loved Ones of Johanningsmeier & Godare Families	Jerri Johanningsmeier
Loretta Wilson	Cindy & Connie
Jean Wells	Unmentioned
Loved Ones	Eric & Cheryl Meyer
Loved Ones	Ed & Brenda Cummings
Grandparents – Jim & Betty Daniels & Step Brother Jordan Snider	Derek, Jordan and Family
Herman & Naomia Pepmeier & Joyce Pepmeier	Janet Daniels
Hank Lopez Jr., Joe & John Johanningsmeier (2023)	Jerri Johanningsmeier
Carole Klein	Jana & Lonny Vieck
Hank Lopez Jr.	Jill Lopez
John & Joseph Johanningsmeier	Jill Lopez
Loved Ones	Jill Lopez

Easter Sunday 2024

In Memory Of:

Given By:

Loved Ones	Pastor Debbie
Jill Cooper	Jim & Elaine Workman
Mom & Dad	Sheri Stodghill

In Honor Of:

Given By:

St. John's Staff and Volunteers	Ed & Brenda Cummings
Will, Hannah, Nyal, Kanan	Eric and Cheryl Meyer
Children & Grandchildren	Don & Shirley Black

