

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

As you know, our church worship service never closed down. For months now, we have had a few in the Service inside and a larger number in our parking lot. There is room for more cars outside and we are putting more chairs inside, for those of you who feel safe to worship inside now. As always, we practice social distancing and request that everyone please wear a mask inside.

Easter Message

RECOGNIZABLE BODIES

Philippians 3:20-21

"We/are citizens of heaven and we eagerly wait for our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, to return from heaven. He will change our weak, mortal bodies and make them like His own glorious body." (1 Corinthians 15:53)

"What is mortal must be changed into what is immortal and what will die must be changed into what cannot die." (John 20:15-16) "She (Mary Magdalene) thought it was the gardener, so she said to him, 'Sir, if you have taken Him (His body) away, please tell me where you put Him so I can go and get Him.' And Jesus said, 'Mary!' She turned towards Him and in Hebrew, said, 'Rabboni!'" (which means teacher).

The First Century world, under the influence of Greek thinking, believed in the immortality of the soul or spirit. That is exciting to nobody. You cannot see, touch, recognize or hug a spirit. Christianity teaches the survival of the spirit and a resurrected body to clothe it.

When Jesus returns, those who have died and gone to be with Him and who probably have some kind of recognizable form (2 Corinthians 5); will return with Him (1 Thessalonians 4:14) and their bodies will rise to clothe them while they are with Jesus in the sky (1 Corinthians 15:51-53). We who are on earth will feel our bodies change and we will be caught up to be with Jesus and them in the sky (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

The body makes us recognizable because every human body is different. We see this in Jesus' encounter with Mary Magdalene on the First Easter morning. She is the first person to see the risen Jesus.

She is standing near the empty tomb, sobbing her heart out; because she had looked in the tomb and the body of her Lord was gone. She was probably afraid that enemies had come and taken it to desecrate it in some way. When two angels appeared inside the tomb and asked her why she was sobbing, she was so distraught that she didn't even know she was in the presence of angels. Grief does that to us. She told them of her fear about her Lord's body.

Then suddenly, without warning, Jesus shows up, standing right behind her. Sensing a presence, she turns around and sees a man whom she thinks could be the caretaker of the cemetery and asks him about Jesus' body. Then