

Christ Moravian Church

WEEKLY PASTORAL LETTER

Christ Church Watchword for the Year 2021

“As the deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.”

Psalm 42:1

Moravian Watchword for the Week: April 4th, 2021

“ *But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died..* ”
1 Corinthians 15:20



Pastoral Newsletter for the weekend of April 4th, 2021

“ The Sunday of Risen Life with Christ - Happy Easter ”

Greetings Easter Friends in Christ:

The Lord is risen! The Lord is risen, indeed! Our Christian faith takes flight and is given direction in life as we proclaim those Easter words. The impact of Christ’s resurrection has the most meaning at our most difficult times; When a loved one has died, while we face a personal tragedy or failure in life, as catastrophic events around the world occur, and now, as we navigate our way through a COVID-19 virus.

I’m sure we all have some very dark and difficult days, and now on this weekend of Easter, the meaning of our faith in Jesus Christ shines light from an empty tomb into those dark moments we experience. I’ve been ever so grateful for each one of CMC’s family and friendship circle over these past days and months. Each of you in your prayers, your support of another, your active faith, has been an inspiration for me and for the wider church community. May your Easter experience include those moments to know the risen Christ being present in your life as the dawn of new days guide us forward. I include a poem by Roberta Porter to accent this Easter message of Christ’s presence. It’s entitled- “Resurrection”!

*God, sometimes we’re as tightly bound as Lazarus
In a tomb, unseeing, unfeeling, unmoving.
Then, in our bondage you send another to help free us;
A Friend who believes and rolls the stones away.
And, unbound, enabled to emerge from the caves of our making,
Our eyes are opened to see Your loving face.
We are released - It’s Resurrection!*

As Sunday arrives, I wish everyone a blessed, happy, and joyous Easter knowing Christ’s resurrection and love.

With Easter hope,
Pastor Stephen Gohdes

Upcoming Events

Virtual Easter Services:

**Maundy Thursday
Video Drama from
Good Shepherd
Church**

April 1 @ 7:00 pm

See the Poster attached
in your e-mail for
further information

**Good Friday Holy
Communion April 2**

**Bible Buddies
April 4th @ 9:00 am**

**Easter Sunday
Celebration April 4**



Holy Week Services and Events

Maundy Thursday- April 1:

The Good Shepherd Moravian Church are offering a dramatic video of the passion events of Jesus. Check out the link, the service will be available on April 1st.

Good Friday- April 2:

Join in a special Good Friday Holy Communion Service to be offered in through the normal video service experience. Steve Blackwell will send out this service to be experienced on Good Friday.

Easter Celebration- April 4:

With joy and thanksgiving, a special Easter Video Worship Service will be offered for Easter Sunday. This will be offered in the normal video channels.

CMC Financial Bookkeeper Wanted!

The CMC Executive Board and Financial Committee are now inviting applicants for the position of CMC Bookkeeper. The ministry description of this position will be made available to applicants. Experience with “Quickbooks” and accounting practices are required.

Contact CMC Board Chair, Bernard Amiot (403-874-7416), and Treasurer, David Bennett (403-479-1635).

Unity Mission Fund - Malawi Moravian Church

Lastly, March 1st is the anniversary of the birth of the Moravian Church, dating back to 1457. With the anniversary, a special Unity Fund Drive occurs each March, and this year’s effort is to support the Moravian Church in Malawi as it grows and develops its ministry. This is a special mission project for the church, and we are invited to offer a special donation for this Unity project through CMC...simply mark your donation Malawai, Unity Fund Project.

Weekly Reminders...

- Please know that Pastor Gohdes continues to be available for any needs that may arise. Feel free to phone the church office (403-271-2700) to speak with us or leave a message. Or you can contact the church office by e-mail at moravian@nucleus.com with any questions or communication.
- **IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE in getting registered or traveling to your Vaccination location, please contact us at the church office and a volunteer will assist.**
- Indranie Perera continues to receive recycling for support of Sri Lanka. Sincere thanks to all who contribute to this worthwhile cause.
- Donations are still being collected for the Acadia Food Pantry. If you’re able to assist, or perhaps volunteer some time, please contact Donna Gordon for details.

In All Things Love...

I've Just Seen Jesus

John 20:1-28

Word Search Puzzle



G W W S O M A G D A L E N E Q
 T O K C P Z D C C F I R S T D
 E M B R O T H E R S I Y D M I
 A A F M A O P Z Y M E K N E S
 C N W Y E M K F I O S K Z U C
 H L D T J B F R N V N I E P I
 E G I D H Z E R G E E G P A P
 R H A K L F C W J D A A H Q L
 W E H R K K Q J O K J J R G E
 D T Q E D U E F A T H E R L S
 F A E M U E Y V E N N X D L Y
 M W R A R X N V B O L R E A O
 Y A A K C D A E T L O G G B N
 J G R D A Y R S R L N V B S D
 F X H Y F V V I R A W Q R W Z



early
first
day
week
dark

Mary
Magdalene
tomb
stone
moved

angels
white
Lord
woman
crying

gardener
teacher
Father
brothers
disciples



"He is not there, he is risen"
Mark 16:6

Jumble

Unscramble the letters to discover a secret message.
Check your answers in Mark 16:6 (NIV)

DRAK

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1

TIRSF

--	--	--	--	--

2

3

KEWE

--	--	--	--

4

WMOAN

--	--	--	--	--

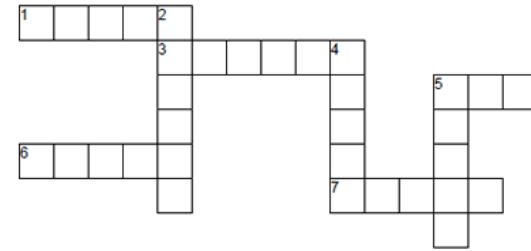
5

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"He has risen! He is not here."
Mark 16:6

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- The color of snow; the opposite of black
- Messengers from heaven
- To produce tears; to weep
- Not dead
- To have nothing inside

DOWN

- The day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection
- What was used to cover the entrance to Jesus' tomb
- A piece of fabric made by weaving cotton, wool, or other fibers

EASTER
ALIVE

CLOTH
WHITE

CRY
STONE

EMPTY
ANGELS



Focus on Mark 16:1–8

WHAT is important to know? — From “*Exegetical Perspective*,” Beverly Roberts Gaventa
“*He is not here.*” Other details in the story point in a different direction. The reference to the rising of the sun (16:2) seems redundant, given that the narration has already stipulated that “sabbath was over” and that it was “very early on the first day of the week,” but the sunrise stands in contrast with the noonday darkness of 15:33. And the fact that the very large stone, a source of desolation, has already been rolled away, suggests that this story is not to remain mired in desolation. Similarly, the presence of the young man “dressed in a white robe” both contrasts with the terrified flight of the young man in 14:51–52 and signals the presence of the divine (9:3).

WHERE is God in these words? — From “*Theological Perspective*,” Serene Jones
We face the reality of God’s presence to us in the sturdy, raw facticity of history. God is present not only in the loud hallelujahs and glorious proclamations of a grand, churchly Easter morning, forgiving prideful sinners. God persists as well in the midst of speechlessness, in death, in the outer regions of our own experiences and of our social lives, where life unfolds underfoot, as it were. Where we expect to find him dead, the tomb does not hold him. And with often unspoken force, grace abounds.

SO WHAT does this mean for our lives? — From “*Pastoral Perspective*,”
D. Cameron Murchison

Their encounter strikes them with “terror and amazement” and reduces them to silence, “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” (Mark 16:8). But why is terror the primary emotion here? The good news of this story seems to escape those who were its first witnesses. The message is that the dream is alive, that God is not dead, that the reign of God begun in Jesus’ ministry continues decisively in his resurrection! And yet it is frightful to these first witnesses.

NOW WHAT is God’s word calling us to do? — From “*Homiletical Perspective*,”
Gail R. O’Day

In the face of theophany, silence is not a failed or inadequate response. Silence is a wholly appropriate response, because the women’s silence creates a space for the voice and presence of God to resound. What adequate words can the women speak in those first few moments as they leave the tomb that would not trivialize the moment, that would not make the empty tomb into a story about what *they* have seen instead of being a moment about what *God* has done? The women’s restraint and Mark’s parallel restraint in recounting the Easter story combine to allow a moment of holy awe for the reader of the Gospel.

April 5, 2015
Easter

Adult
Resource Sheet 2

The Women at the Tomb: A Guided Meditation



(Read slowly) It is the third day after the death of Jesus on the cross. You and the other women are very tired, worn out by the stress of Jesus' arrest and trial, still numb from the raw emotion of watching your dearly loved friend and teacher die the agonizing death of a criminal on a Roman cross. Over the long hours it took for him to die, you kept vigil from a distance, the only witnesses from the close circle of disciples and followers.

(pause)

When evening came that day, Joseph of Arimathea claimed Jesus's battered body, wrapped it in linen and placed it in a tomb. You watched as a heavy stone was rolled across the entrance. Together, you women managed to endure the long Sabbath day. Now it was time for you to do the last tasks you will ever have to do for your dead friend.

(pause)

It is under cover of the darkness of the very early hours of this morning that you and the other women set out, carrying the anointing spices and other things needed to prepare the body. Darkness holds dangers for unaccompanied women at the best of times, but you have no idea what might be in store for any who have been identified as friends of the crucified Jesus. As you walk, you are very quiet—partly out of fear and partly because of overwhelming grief that is just beginning to pierce the numbness.

(pause)

But now, just as the sun rises over the hills, you see you are nearing the tomb. Reality is setting in, and you wonder together, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" As you look up, you are stunned to see the huge, heavy stone has already been moved away. Almost without volition, you walk forward, entering the tomb.

(pause)

And there, against all reason, you see the tomb does not hold the body of your friend. Sitting there, however, is a young man in a white robe. And you are terrified.

(pause)

Now the young man is speaking. "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him."

You hear the young man go on, telling you to tell Peter and the other disciples that Jesus is going ahead to Galilee, where they will see him.

(pause)

At last, the terror that has frozen you in place mobilizes you all, and you flee, your heart pounding. Despite the young man's instructions, you tell no one what has happened. Who would believe a group of women, anyway? What on earth could you possibly say to explain what has happened?

Invite the group to reflect in silence on what the women might have been thinking and feeling after this experience.



BOARD OF WORLD MISSION

of the Moravian Church • North America



As we reach the one-year milestone of this pandemic, we at the BWM would like to reflect on how things have changed in the

last year. As an internationally-operating non-profit, travel is typical and necessary for the work we do around the world, but this year at home has challenged us to continue fulfilling our call to mission even when we can't physically be present. Throughout our hurricane response in Nicaragua and Honduras, we relied heavily on WhatsApp and good old-fashioned phone calls to communicate with our partners in the area. WhatsApp has allowed us to receive pictures and videos of the devastation as well as the recovery in these areas. Our ability to communicate with our partners abroad has evolved this year and we want our communication with our audience at home to evolve as well.

In the last year, you may have seen more frequent updates to our website, Facebook page, newsletter, YouTube channel, and even Instagram account. We want you to stay informed on our mission work around the world and hope you will take some time to like and follow us on your favorite platforms.

MoravianMission.org

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[@moravianboardofworldmission](https://www.youtube.com/moravianboardofworldmission)

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