

Readings for Sunday, April 21, 2019
EASTER SUNDAY
Woodbury United Methodist Church

Proclamation of the Resurrection:

Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, carrying the spices they had prepared.² They found the stone rolled away from the entrance to the tomb,³ so they went in; but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.⁴ They stood there puzzled about this, when suddenly two men in bright shining clothes stood by them.⁵ Full of fear, the women bowed down to the ground, as the men said to them, "Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? ⁶He is not here; he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was in Galilee: ⁷'The Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and three days later rise to life.'"

⁸Then the women remembered his words, ⁹returned from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven disciples and all the rest. ¹⁰The women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James; they and the other women with them told these things to the apostles. ¹¹But the apostles thought that what the women said was nonsense, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; he bent down and saw the grave cloths but nothing else. Then he went back home amazed at what had happened.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

³⁴Peter began to speak: "I now realize that it is true that God treats everyone on the same basis. ³⁵Those who fear him and do what is right are acceptable to him, no matter what race they belong to. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, proclaiming the Good News of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷You know of the great event that took place throughout the land of Israel, beginning in Galilee after John preached his message of baptism. ³⁸You know about Jesus of Nazareth and how God poured out on him the Holy Spirit and power. He went everywhere, doing good and healing all who were under the power of the Devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses of everything that he did in the land of Israel and in Jerusalem.

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Then they put him to death by nailing him to a cross. ⁴⁰But God raised him from death three days later and caused him to appear, ⁴¹not to everyone, but only to the witnesses that God had already chosen, that is, to us who ate and drank with him after he rose from death. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach the gospel to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God has appointed judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets spoke about him, saying that all who believe in him will have their sins forgiven through the power of his name.”

A Reading from Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians:

¹⁹If our hope in Christ is good for this life only and no more,^[a] then we deserve more pity than anyone else in all the world.

²⁰But the truth is that Christ has been raised from death, as the guarantee that those who sleep in death will also be raised. ²¹For just as death came by means of a man, in the same way the rising from death comes by means of a man. ²²For just as all people die because of their union with Adam, in the same way all will be raised to life because of their union with Christ. ²³But each one will be raised in proper order: Christ, first of all; then, at the time of his coming, those who belong to him. ²⁴Then the end will come; Christ will overcome all spiritual rulers, authorities, and powers, and will hand over the Kingdom to God the Father. ²⁵For Christ must rule until God defeats all enemies and puts them under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be defeated will be death.

This is the word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**