

Easter Sunday 2024

Jesus is Risen, Risen indeed!
Alleluia!

Amen.

Good Morning, Friends! Happy Easter!!
We walked through Holy Week and now, here we are!
Alleluia, Alleluia!

So, I don't mean to be rude, but why are you here?
I just mean why are you at church? Today, on Easter?

What I really mean is this, what does this story of the resurrection of Jesus have to do with you?
Why do you care?

We as humans tend to not care about things, unless we can see how it impacts us.

Now, really that doesn't make us incredibly selfish. It's just the human condition, we care about what impacts us most. No judgement.

I recently listened to a stand-up comedian who explained this human condition in a really funny way.
Which I guess is the job of a comedian.

In his standup act, he was talking about the American response to Covid.

He said we heard about this disease when it showed up in China, and Americans were like some people in China are really sick. And then, we heard about it showing up in Italy, then Seattle, then New York! Oh. Yikes. That's not good. Oh well, gotta go to work, or school or to the mall!

We just didn't care..... yet.

But then we heard Tom Hanks had it,
and we were all like "Oh my God, Tom Hanks has Covid!!!
Get all the toilet paper you can put in your car and then stay inside forever".

Suddenly this person, Tom Hanks, who was very relatable, this person who felt a lot like an average American guy had this crazy new disease and then everybody in America began to take it seriously.

Well, not everybody. But that's a different sermon.

The point is when we don't see how a situation could impact us, we are prone to not care about it very much. When something feels distant, we can ignore it. But when its close to home, we tend to wake up, engage and focus.
Then, we show up and are present.

So back to my question.

Why are you here? How does this story of the resurrection of Jesus impact you?
Why do we care?

Now, perhaps you are here because you really need this beautiful music. And that makes sense because this choir is amazing!!

Or maybe you are here because you need some joyful exuberance and the easter egg hunt and the flowers and the beautiful easter dresses or for a family gathering. Or maybe your parents made you come to church.

Or maybe you are here for all of that.

And that makes a lot of sense to me.

But still, I'm curious if that is the whole of it. I think there is something that draws us to an Easter service in an almost unconscious way. Something about it, that is so relatable. Something that we think could really impact us.

Friends, did you know, that Life is 80% repair. That is what one of my favorite parenting experts, Dr. Becky says. That fact made me both laugh out loud and cry a little. Because it is true. 20% of the time we are creating, building, dreaming, relaxing, enjoying the things we care about and then the other 80% of the time, we are fixing the stuff we care about that got broken.

Life is 80% repair.

At our jobs, in our relationships, our homes, our communities, our kids. Most of the time we find ourselves in the work of repairing brokenness.

And, friends, Repair takes a lot of energy. Repair can be hard. Because when we are repairing things that have been broken we have to really pay attention. We have to manage, direct, advocate, we have to find solutions to the problem and then do the work of mending and fixing. And then we have to hope, that what we did was enough. And sometimes it isn't.

Sometimes no matter how much we do the repair work; the things we care about don't get fixed.

Relationships end. We lose our job. Our kids don't talk to us for a few days...until they need a ride somewhere.

But sometimes, no matter what we do. It doesn't get fixed. And that, is really hard.

Life is 80% repair. And the work of repairing the things we care about can be exhausting. So, back to my question.

Why are we here? How does this story of the resurrection of Jesus impact us, Why do we care?

Jesus was kind and loving and he took care of the poor and ate with sinners. He spoke truth to power. He healed people who were sick. He spent a lot of time repairing things that were broken. And he taught his disciples how to do the same. Jesus prepared us well to do the work of repair.

In our gospel today, Mary and the others who go to the grave and see it empty are overwhelmed because it all feels so broken and they don't know how to fix it.

You see, they don't yet understand the reason Jesus isn't there. They don't know that the problem has already been fixed. They don't know yet, that he has risen.

But we do. We already know the end of the story. And maybe that's how this story impacts us.

Because today we all came here to hear a story about how something tragically broken was amazingly repaired.

And, here is the thing, we didn't have to do it!! Imagine that! Something got repaired and we didn't have to do it.

On Friday Jesus died, and now, three days later we simply get to show up and celebrate that the problem was fixed, repair happened. Because in the story, the stone is rolled away and Jesus is no longer in the grave, but it says Jesus has gone ahead of them.

Repair.

Today we just get to show up and proclaim that love is stronger than death. And we get to sing and we get to gather and we share a meal and we exclaim alleluia alleluia! And that feels good.

Because Life is 80% repair. And repairing stuff is exhausting.

But today, Easter day, we simply get to bask in the glory that there are some problems that get repaired, without us having to manage or mend or fix anything.

Winter. The cold short days. The lack of sunlight in the gray sky. The barren trees and dead grass. That got fixed too. Repaired.

And you didn't have to do anything about it. Winter passes every year and yet every year when I see the first signs of spring, it feels like a miracle.

Mostly, because something got repaired and I didn't have to do anything about it.

I didn't have to make calls to the season customer service center waiting on hold for an hour and demand that spring come return.

I didn't have to have a hard conversation with father winter and demand that he respect the boundaries of the earth and let the flowers bloom again. Spring, it just returned, and I didn't have to do anything to make it happen.

Life is 80% repair.

And that's why I think we are here. I think that's what this story of resurrection has to do with us, at least in part, because we all need to be reminded that sometimes things get repaired, without us fixing mending or managing anything.

Sometimes we need to be reminded of the 20% of life that doesn't demand repair from us, and in those moments, we should celebrate it and soak it in!

The music, the prayers, the communion, the celebration, this is what will give us the strength and courage we need to show up for all the other 80% of life that is about repair.

The 80% of life that demands we do the hard work and are fully engaged in repairing things we care about.

Today is about resurrection, but the rest of the story about Jesus, is all about repair, feeding the poor, housing the homeless, freeing the oppressed, loving your neighbor. 80% of the bible is about that. 80% of our Sundays are focused on what God is asking us to do to repair this broken world.

But today, today is about hope. Hope that there is something bigger at work in the world than us, that sometimes, things get repaired, resurrection happens and spring comes, and we didn't have to do anything to make it happen.

So friends, soak it in, let it nourish you, so that you can see how the rest of the story, the other 80%, impacts you.

And then we can show up and engage more fully in this beautiful, broken world with the hope and faith of resurrection, The hope and faith in the possibility of repair.

And then, like Mary and the other disciples, we can even at the grave, make our song, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Amen.