

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "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. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." 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 16:1-8

Dear Members of Peace and Trinity,

One of Hans' and Wren's favorite games nowadays is hide and seek. I'm looking forward to warmer days where it makes more sense to play it outside, because a winter full of hiding and seeking in the house has taken its toll. First, there are only so many places to hide in the house. It takes a lot of work for me, especially as someone on the taller side, to find a new corner to hide in. Second, however, is the fact that Wren still struggles to stay quiet whenever she gets into her hiding spot and Hans thinks part of the game is telling me where to hide and/or hiding in the exact same spot every single time. As much as I will look back on these days with immense joy, I'm also sensing that it is time to mix up the games just a little bit!

But today, this hiding and seeking, this wondering where Hans and Wren have run off to this time, has me thinking about the women as they returned to the tomb of Jesus to look for him. They see the stone rolled away. They enter and see a young man dressed in white robes who tells them that the one who they seek is not here, but is risen! Not only that, but they should go tell the world about this Good News! God is not hiding. God has not run off. God is here!

There is a lot of brokenness in the world. You can call it sin, separation from God, a deep yearning for something that currently is not, or something else. Whatever you call it, the world is not as Jesus wants it. We can run off and hide from it. We can simply ignore the needs of the world and keep living our lives as if nothing is wrong. Or we can seek God in the midst of it.

In the end, no matter what we do, we know it is God who continues to seek us, even through the brokenness.

The Easter story continues this month. The Easter story is that Jesus chose not to run off and ignore the world to save himself, but to enter into it as the only hope for a sinful world. Jesus does not hide, but remains with us, all around us! So with the women at the tomb today, and in the season of Easter to come, let's seek Jesus. Because where is Jesus? Risen! Jesus is risen! And that means that Jesus is all around us. Ready to enter into the world God loves for the redemption of a world that is in deep need. Let's not run and hide. Instead, let us seek the peace that comes from Christ. Let us find glimpses of Christ around us and let us share those glimpses with others. These glimpses will change the world.

Peace,

Pastor Ian