

# From the Pastor

April 2020

## A Message from Pastor Sondra

\*\*I wrote this article at the beginning of March ... and much has happened since then! However, as I re-read it I realize the Good News of Easter remains the same! So, I've opted to not alter it. My prayer is that we will experience God's victory! Always! These are difficult days, but we are Easter people! Prayers and Love,

*Pastor Sondra*



*"Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"*  
Mark 16:2 & 3

My childhood Easter celebrations began with Sunrise Service. We gathered at the crack of dawn to sing joyous songs, hear the resurrection proclamation – offered by sleepy-eyed youth – and then enjoy breakfast together. Holy Week was the only time the three churches of our 3-point charge worshiped together. So it was BIG! It was festive! It was obvious something extraordinary was underway.

On the first Easter morn, the women journeyed to Jesus' tomb full of grief and questions. They were unsure of what the future held ... but they were up at the crack of dawn and prepared to anoint Jesus' body. Unsure of how they would remove the barriers before them, they still went to the tomb. They were determined ... they were faithful... even in their uncertainty they did not delay. They were still trusting God even when they struggled to understand God.

And God showed up.  
God removed the stone.  
God raised Jesus from the dead.  
God changed mourning into joy.  
God offered life.

The Good News of Easter is the transforming power we all need in our lives. God's love revealed in Jesus conquers ALL: death ... hate ... fear ... doubt ... grief ...

What is it that you carry with you to Jesus' tomb?

If you only listen to news reports you will be overwhelmed by news of virus outbreaks, unstable financial markets, mistrust in the political arena, uncertainty about the church's future. Let's take it to Jesus' tomb. Faith calls us to journey to a garden where Jesus' body was laid. Bring along your questions and fears and uncertainties. God will remove the blockades of your life. God will reveal power and victory!

May we keep seeking and trusting and believing.  
I'm not sure how all the blockades of life will be removed. But there are joyous songs to sing and a resurrection proclamation to be heard – He Lives!

Thanks be to God for victory in Jesus Christ!