

Carol and Jeff offer an Easter Reflection

April 12, 2020

Creation joined in the celebrations!

A star moved through the sky, leading gift-bearing magi to find and celebrate the life of a child living in the village of Nazareth.

The earth shook, creation quaked, and a boulder shifted, as Mary, the mother of that child, and Mary, one of Jesus' friends and companions, arrived at a tomb.

They came in grief, they came expecting to stand before a stone barrier, aware of the threatening gaze of the soldiers posted as guards.

Instead, they found a holy place – they found the stone rolled away; they found an angel – a messenger of holy happenings, they found a tomb that no longer entombed God's Beloved.

They found an angel who greeted them with the usual angelic opening line: "Do not be afraid"

"Jesus has been raised."

"He has gone ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there."

Their world that had seemed so diminished after Jesus' death, suddenly seemed larger, vaster, more wondrous than anything they could have imagined.

There was something else going on this world, someone else dancing through the world scattering miracles here and there....there was God declaring that this is indeed God's world, and therefore there is so much more height and depth to it than either life or death seemed able to contain.

Do not be afraid, for God is always creating newness.

Jesus has been raised.. Raised...raised by God...it is God's act, God's gift, God's blessing.

Go to Galilee...go back to your familiar place, to the place you know so well, and there you will discover that it is not the Galilee you thought you knew...now it will be God's Galilee...God is in all your familiar places...God is in all our familiar places as we worship this morning

...and Jesus, your companion, will be there. The Christ-life will permeate everything and everyone.

It is Easter...do not be afraid, even of death, for wherever we are, we are in God's love. Wherever we go, Christ will meet us.

Whatever we experience, there are more heights and depths and wonders and miracles and LOVE than can be contained in any news reports, in any statistics or projections...for there is more God than we can describe, there is more life than we can imagine, there is more Christ than we can crucify, and there is more resurrection still to come. Today, everything is larger, vaster, more wondrous.

This is God's world. Today is God's Easter resurrection miracle. Christ has been raised. Thanks be to God.

ESTHER AND EMMETT TALK ABOUT EASTER

(sound of organ playing 'Jesus Christ is risen today')

Emmett: Hey, catchy tune. Who's the musician?

Esther: Lynne Mavins is playing it.

Emmett: Lynne Mavins..I know her...she's one of the organists at the church, right?

Esther: Right.

Emmett: So this is a church song?

Esther: Yes, it's a church 'hymn'

Emmett: What's it called?

Esther: Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Emmett: I know that, it's Easter, but what's the song...sorry...hymn...called.

Esther: that's the title of the hymn...Jesus Christ is Risen today. It's an Easter hymn. You know the story of Easter.

Emmett: I sure do.....but if you wanted to remind everyone else what the story is, I'd listen.

Esther: On that first Easter morning Mary and Mary went to the tomb..

Emmett: Mary AND Mary...was Mary beside herself?

Esther: There were two women named Mary...one Mary was Jesus' mother, and the other Mary was Mary of Magdelene, one of Jesus' friends.

Emmett: Got it – two Marys...where did you say they went?

Esther: to the tomb?

Emmett: The tomb...what's that?

Esther: It was like a small cave.

Emmett: And that's where Jesus' body was?

Esther: Yes,

Emmett: So the two Mary's were going to go into the cave to see Jesus' body?

Esther: Well, they didn't think they'd be able to go into the tomb because there was a big rock blocking the entrance.

Emmett: Really, how big was the rock?

Esther: BIG

Emmett: Really Big?

Esther: Really Big.

Emmett: Was it this big (moves toward the camera)

Esther: Bigger

Emmett: This big

Esther: Bigger

Emmett: This big (right up to the camera)

Esther: even bigger

Emmett: Wow, that's a big rock...so they couldn't get into the cave?

Esther: Yes they could...there was a surprise waiting for them at the tomb. The stone was rolled away and there was an angel dressed in shining white robes sitting on the stone.

Emmett: So for anyone watching this at home, remember, anytime you want to move a big rock it's good to have an angel around.

Esther: Actually, that's probably good advice. And this angel told Mary and Mary not to be afraid, because Jesus was no longer in the tomb.

Emmett: Where'd he go?

Esther: The angel said that God had raised Jesus from death, that Jesus was risen, was alive and they should go tell this good news to all of Jesus' friends.

Emmett: Wow! Someone should write a song about this.

Esther: Jesus Christ is risen today...so we know that God's love is bigger than even the biggest rock that may block our way...we know that we are always loved by God.

Emmett: Wow!

Esther: Often during worship on Easter Sunday, someone says: "Jesus Christ is risen today" and everyone else says: "Christ is risen indeed". Do you want to try that?

Emmett: Sure

Esther: Christ is risen indeed...that's your line.

Emmett: got it

Esther: Jesus Christ is risen today

Emmett: Christ sure is....risen....today....indeed

Esther: Hallelujah!

Emmett: Hallelujah!

Esther: Amen!

Emmett: Amen!