

By Father Christopher, Rector

Easter Reflection

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." ~ Matthew 28:1-10

Easter began not with celebration, but with emptiness and questioning.

The empty tomb is particularly poignant this year, as many churches throughout the world are empty during the times that Christians typically gather for the Easter Vigil and for Easter Sunday. We're not experiencing the presence of Christ in the ways that we are used to.

Where is Jesus now?

The work of Jesus in the world hasn't ended, it has simply taken new forms and other forms, previously unrecognized, are being illuminated. This is what we get to embrace, participate with, and celebrate.

St. James is being Christ in the world in new or enhanced ways, through pastoral care, worship, outreach, and prayer. Vestry members and the Pastoral Care Team are contacting every parish household. The Food Bank altered distribution to safely keep serving over 150 households twice a month. Parishioners are gathering for worship and prayer online, sometimes multiple times a day. Neighbors are supporting one another. People are recognizing the quiet service of our healthcare workers and others. We are demonstrating the Gospel call of love of neighbor by staying at home. We are reaching out to one another with encouragement.

We are not together in person for Easter, but as Bishop Hayashi reminds us, "Jesus is with us." Remember the words of Jesus to all of us in today's Gospel: ***"Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."***

Jesus has risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Peace and blessings,

Father Christopher