

The Life Challenge

Title: If Ever There Was A Time For Good News
Text: Matthew 28:5-7; Ephesians 1:18-21
Speaker: Pastor Steve Berg
Date: April 12, 2020



WARM-UP

Flattening the curve of the coronavirus pandemic has required that we all sacrifice many things. I think that we need to have an imagination about all of the good things that will one day be our enjoyment again. What are the things that you look forward to enjoying when you can?

DISCUSSION

Jesus told everyone that God's mission for Him was to establish the Kingdom of God and that He would do that through His death.

- Read the crucifixion/resurrection story in one of the gospels (Matthew 27-28; Mark 15-16; Luke 23-24; John 19-20), thinking about Jesus' mission.
- Put into your own words what it meant for Jesus to bring the kingdom of God through His death.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most powerful, life transforming piece of good news that you will ever hear.

- Speak out or write down some of the reasons this is true. (John 11:25-26; Acts 4:33; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; 1 Peter 1:3; Romans 6:8-11; Colossians 1:13-14).

The good news of the resurrection pulsates through the rest of the New Testament story of the church.

- Read Ephesians 1:18-21 as one example of this.
- In Paul's prayer, how does he want the believers to be enlightened by this good news?

This Easter message obviously comes in the middle of one of the most difficult circumstances that Canada, and the nations of the world, have ever faced.

- How has this Easter celebration brought good news to you?
- In what ways will you live out this resurrection good news in the world?

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DISCUSSION

Reflect on the way life is today compared to a month ago.

- Have you discovered any unexpected blessing in the disruption to your "normal" life?
- What lessons do you think God might be teaching you?
- What new thing might God be doing in your life right now? How might He be shaping your life to look different on the other side of this pandemic than it was before?

Pray

- Ask God to give you eyes to see the new things He wants to do in and around you, and for open hands to receive that from Him (instead of clenched fists clinging to "former things").