

From the Rector's Study, the Rev. Bryce Sangster

Sunday, April 9th, 2023, Easter

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18

I seem to remember saying on the last Sunday before Lent, Transfiguration, that it was a foretaste of Easter. Jesus telling them not to tell until the son of man has been raised from the dead.

Then I realized the two instances had the same order the same sequence.

On the mountain, at the Transfiguration, Jesus is seen as being radiant white and the voice from heaven saying he is the chosen. At Easter we have Jesus calling Mary by name.

On the mountain they cannot stay on the mountaintop, and Jesus telling Mary do not hold me.

On the mountaintop don't tell what you've seen until the son of man has been raised from the dead. Jesus telling Mary go and tell my brothers what you have seen, then she goes and tells them I have seen the Lord.

The Transfiguration on the mountaintop is about Jesus. The phrase don't tell until the son of man has been raised from the dead is not only about making sure you see the whole message before you tell any part of it, but it's also about you not having anything to do, anything to say yet.

Until today, until Easter, we are just to hear and listen to the story. But today like Mary we enter the story in a new and different way. We enter the story; we have a part to play.

We too like Mary, are called by name. We were called by name at our baptism. We are called to join the story and take our part. Our part of the story doesn't end with just being called my name. We too cannot stay on the mountaintop; we too cannot hang on to Jesus.

We bring our part of the story of Easter, called by name, forgiven like Peter, and empowered to bring that story we are a part of and is part of who we are down from the mountain into the world.

We can just think of Easter as what happened 2000 years ago on this day and leave it at that, but more to the point the value of Easter is what it means for us today.

Our experience of God through the power of the Holy Spirit in our relationship with God and each other today.

Whether we like it or not, today is about good news, the best news we can have, but there's also an element challenge. Today is about empowerment, as I mentioned earlier. We belong in the story of Easter, and it belongs within us through the power of the Holy Spirit. And belonging is both receiving and giving. Blessings are given to us as individuals, but not just for us alone, but to be shared with others in the community, for them to benefit from the blessings as well.

Why should the blessing of the resurrection at Easter be any different?

Amen

The Lord bless you and watch over you,
the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you,
the Lord look kindly on you
and give you peace;
and the blessing ...