

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

April 17th, 2022, Easter

Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 John 20:1-18

The story continues the resurrection, but it doesn't end there with the message of eternal life there is more to that.

There are four things that happened of significance in today's gospel.

Jesus calls Mary by name

he tells her not to hold onto him

he asks her to do something

and she does it.

Being called by name is important for us, it relates to belonging and the person calling us by name gives us value and does not dismiss us. So, all of us are called by name. There is a baptism of liturgy where the priest asks the parents and godparents to name the child. So, God calls us by name beginning at baptism.

When Jesus tells Mary not to hold onto him shows that he is not finished what he is come to do. Maybe for us it signifies the continuation of our spiritual journey, and we still have things to do and relationships to continue. To hang on to him is to stop growing then stop facing the joys and challenge it of life.

He then tells her to go and tell the others what she had seen then she goes to the disciples and says I have seen the Lord. This suggests two things, we have a part to play in living out the resurrection message in our relationship with God, and resurrection is not just about us as individuals but as members of the community.

It reminds me of what Herbert O'Driscoll has said about Noah and the ark. It is not about individual salvation.

Noah takes his whole extended family into the ark.

They also bring the animals into the ark as well. That says something about our relationship with the rest of God's creation.

Therefore, like Mary we also have a part to play in the resurrection story.

Our part to play is taking our place in the community. Belonging means both what we receive and what we contribute to the community. The Easter message is about taking our place at the banquet table of the Kingdom where all are welcome

ourselves and others. And just maybe some we don't think about or maybe don't think they belong.

Let us truly celebrate Easter in all that it means for us and all whom we come in contact with.

Amen