



Los Altos United Methodist Church

Touching heaven, changing earth with head, heart, and hands

Los Altos United Methodist Church

Our Defining Story, March 31, 2013

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Scripture Lesson: Luke 24: 1-12

HEAD

1. According to Luke, it was the women who had come with Jesus from Galilee who discovered the empty tomb. Why did God choose them for this role? Who were these women and how were they a part of the ministry of Jesus?
2. Why do you think Simon Peter was the first disciple to enter the tomb after hearing the report from the women?
3. Jesus told his followers that he would be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and on the third day be raised again. Why was it so hard for his followers to believe his resurrection?

HEART

1. Does knowing “the rest of the story” make it impossible for us to truly grasp the grief of the disciples, the women, and the followers of Jesus upon His Crucifixion? How can we feel the unthinkable sorrow and horror of Good Friday in ways that make us more powerful, more grateful, more dedicated followers of the One who died to save us and left the tomb empty forever?
2. Why do we sometimes look for life answers in an empty tomb?
3. What keeps us from recognizing Jesus’ presence in our midst? Why do we seek earthly proof of that which is eternal?

4. Are we truly renewed after Easter? Why and why not?

HANDS

1. In our fast-paced lives, we often walk right by the empty tomb without seeing that it is empty. What can we do to help each other take time to discover that the empty tomb means joy because the risen Christ fills our emptiness?
2. Our lives are too often spent in the empty tombs of unfulfilled dreams, aimless journeys, vacant goals. Yet we know Jesus is not present in these empty places. How do we truly abandon them and replace them with Easter morning dreams, journeys, and goals?
3. There are people in the world who through circumstances beyond their asking, live in tombs without the essentials of meaningful living and without hope. As people of God, what are some of the ways we can roll away the stone, provide life tools, and reveal the risen Lord and His message of redemption, forgiveness, hope?
4. How do we handle the secular commercialization of Easter? How do we fill our Easter baskets with everlasting gifts?