

# After The Resurrection

April 30, 2023

Welcome to the Beamsville Church of Christ Online Ministry. This week's message is titled After the Resurrection. The Scripture reading is John 14 1 to 10. Thank you to Rhonda, Ed and Don for being part of the video.

## Welcome, Announcements, Prayer

Good morning, everyone, and thank you for coming today and especially this morning for this great big, long front row. Look at them all: Bunches of them! We've got some really special people who are having birthdays this week. One of them being our friend Jonathon. One of them being our friend Gloria and Barb. Your Barb or Barbara. Your--okay--Barb. And Sherry and Ernie are having an anniversary. Please check your mailboxes for survey about Wednesday evening meetings. Completed surveys should be returned to the elders or put in the donation box. Okay. And Dianne's neighbor, Rene. We've talked about her different times over the last while. She's in the hospital now. She has pneumonia and possibly has had a heart attack. So we need to to think about her and keep our in our prayers and keep Dianne in her prayers and let us pray

Dear God in heaven. Thank you so much for the opportunity. We have to be here today with people of like mind and like spirit. And and we pray that that your spirit will control our lives. And we pray that you will fill us with faith, no matter what our circumstances are, that that we will have faith to be able to to face whatever whatever we're facing in whatever is ahead of us. And we pray that you will still us with your knowledge and that that we will know how to to best serve you in Jesus name. Amen.

## Communion

There are several times during the year when it's appropriate to give gifts, would that be right? So we've had some people of having a birthday. Well, that's a time to celebrate another year and Christmas time. Probably appropriate to give and receive gifts. Now, you folks, you like it gifts at Christmastime? Yeah. We see a few nods. Yeah. How about the rest of you? But that's. That's okay, right? You like to receive. It's a good thing, right? Well, Romans Chapter five. There's an interesting section beginning in verse 15. It reads as follows But the free gift is not like the trespass, for if the money died through, the one person's trespass, much more surely have have the grace of God and the free gift of in the grace of that one person, Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the effect of one person's sin for the judgment following one's one trespass brought condemnation. But the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of one person's trespass, death exercised dominion over that one much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one person Jesus Christ.

Well, we participate in giving gifts. I often would tell students and I give my wife a gift of ro- of flowers every day, and they would kind of look at me with some weird bewilderment. And I said, Yes, I give her tulips every day. But sometimes the gifts are the most important. Gifts are the ones that are unexpected, random. Well, this passage talks about the free gift. The free gift is Jesus Christ. So we've been singing about Low in the grave. He lay but up from the grave he rose. So this resurrection that took place a week ago today, as we celebrated it. Resurrection for what? Resurrection to be grateful for

this free gift that we have from in Jesus Christ that is allows us to know him and to come close to him and to know God to some degree, and to understand God, to some degree. And this can be powerful in our lives. Can you imagine the trajectory of your life without Jesus? I can't even imagine it. I can tell you I would have never moved to Beamsville if it wasn't for Jesus. I would have never taught at Great Lakes for 41 years if it wasn't for Jesus.

You see, we have been resurrected and it's as we as we think about baptism dying, being buried in the water and coming out of the water. New spirit filled. For what? To serve him. To abide in him. In this abiding puts away fear. It puts away a lot of things that can come up in our lives. Surely there's going to be trouble, but surely with Jesus' help, those troubles aren't so troublesome. And as we've sung in death, I don't know about you, but I. I want to live as long as I can. But I'm not afraid of death because of Jesus. So as we participate in communion today, we think about that broken body. We think about that blood that cleanses us from our sin. And this time of year, we think about resurrection and this gift that we have been given surely needs to be unwrapped and examined and appreciated. And be thankful for just like the gifts that we receive in other ways in our lives.

Let's pray. Our Father in Heaven for the sacrifice that you have made to send yourself to this world, to participate in the human experience, and to teach us how and what you are about and what you have expected of us. And to conquer this sin that's in our lives, to give us hope and renewal in this life, to be your people, to be your hands, to be your feet, to be your your your words and to be your love, to be these things in our lives. We pray that you might bless us to this end. But as we pause now, we remember our dear Savior. His broken body and his shed blood that makes this gift free and available to all of us. If we only accept and believe. And it's in his name, we pray at this time with Thanksgiving. Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Reading

### John 14:1-10

The reading this morning is from John Chapter 14, verses 1 to 10. Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God. Believe also in me. My father's house has many rooms. If that were not so would I have told you that I'm going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me. So that you may. You also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I'm going. Thomas said in Lord, we don't know where you're going. So how could we know the way? Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him. Philip said, Lord, show us the Father and that'll be enough for us. Jesus answered, Don't you know me, Philip? Even after I've been among you such a long time. Anyone who has seen me has seen the father. Oh, can you say show us the father? Don't you believe that I am in the father and that the father is in me? The words I say to you, I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the father living in me who's doing his work.

## Sermon

Good morning, everyone. Thank you for being with us today. Last week we talked about the resurrection and how powerful the resurrection was. But have you ever wondered what happens after the resurrection, after Jesus leaves? It is profound that we can look at these words. Peter stands up and

he's addressing the crowd and he says, In these last days, God said, I will pour out my spirit on all people. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy. Young men will see visions. Your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my spirit and they will prophesy. Prophecy basically is preaching. It's declaring the word of the Lord. And so this is what actually happens at Pentecost. People hearing all this wondering what all of this means. And it's its powerful, he says. Men and women of Israel listen to this. Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which he did among you, as you yourselves know. He was handed over to you, by God's set purpose and foreknowledge, and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, for it was impossible for death to keep its grasp on him. And that's our promise. It's impossible for death to keep its grasp on us. One day, we'll all be together with the Lord. I face to face with all of our loved ones. We have this promise.

So what do we do until that happens? How do we live our lives? And so we go through what's called the Book of Acts. Interesting. These different actions of people speaking, proclaiming the word of the Lord. And there's no way that we can go through all the book of acts, of course, today. But I just want to read a couple of scriptures. And if you want to follow along with me, you can. But it's not necessary because it's just a picture of putting ourselves there. I mean, just imagine for a moment if you were there at the crucifixion of Jesus and you walked away from it, and then all of a sudden you saw somebody coming toward you who was a friend of yours. But I was at your funeral last week. How did you come back? You see, when Jesus was raised from the dead, it wasn't just Jesus that was raised from the dead when he was raised from the dead. There were many holy people who had died who were also raised from the dead. It was magnified. Just incredible. And so what happens? Well, we we want to know more about this. We want to know more about this. Jesus. And so when Peter is writing the Book of Acts and Paul also mentions lots of different things in this book. It's this. So what do we do now? Well, in chapter three of acts, it says this. Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders, but this is how God has filled what He had foretold through all the prophets, saying that the Christ would suffer, repent then, and turn to God so that your sins might be wiped out. And then he says He must remain in heaven for a while, until one day he will come listen and restore to everything. The restoration of all things is a promise from Jesus to you and me. Isn't that incredible? And so people are trying to understand this and they're trying to understand what? What do we do now? Where do we go?

And so there's this man whose name was Saul, who later becomes the great apostle Paul. And you've heard this story many, many times. But if you haven't, I'll just read it very quickly. Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the High Priest and asked him four letters to the synagogues in Damascus so that if he found any there who belonged to the way Christians, whether man or woman, he may take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. This Saul who becomes Paul, who writes most of the New Testament at one time, was completely against Christianity. And as he near Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, So why do you persecute me? And Saul asks, Who are you, Lord? Then he says, I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city and you'll be told what to do. Many of you remember the rest of the story where he goes in. He hears the Word of the Lord even more. He's baptized. Raised. The one who said he would never believe in Jesus is now preaching Jesus as hard and as long as He can.

It's amazing what Jesus can do in changing our hearts. So even though we're reading a book that was written thousands of years ago, it still is so new, has reference to us every single day. And then it says The Church grew throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria, enjoying a time of peace. For the longest time, Christians were just being totally persecuted. But now they can join this wonderful group of people coming together. And it says there was encouragement and the Holy Spirit helped people to know about God and they grew in number as well as growing in their faith. And so Peter begins to speak and he says this I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism, but he accepts men and women, boys and girls from every nation who believes in him and who fears him. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ who is Lord of all? Question How peaceful have you been feeling with this pandemic? There's been a lot of disrupt people struggling emotionally, sometimes intellectually in a lot of ways, maybe even maybe even spiritually go back 2000 years ago. And he wants us to remember this. The peace of God is for all of us.

And so this gathering together of people coming together, we want to preach this. We want we want to declare this that Jesus is Lord, not just for a person or a couple of people, but is Lord of all. And so there's this there's several unique things that take place. There were Jew and Gentile who really wouldn't even walk on the same street together. Now they come together as one, which wasn't the easiest thing for them to do. So the apostles and the elders gathered together and had lots of discussions about what should be happening. And then he says this brothers and sisters, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the Gospel, and that they would believe God, who knows the heart show that He accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as the Holy Spirit has been given to us. God made no distinction between us and them, for He purified their hearts by faith. Do we want to have greater faith? One of the ways of having greater faith is asking God to help us have greater faith. That was their prayer. They were amazed at all of these things happening in a seemed like the disciples then were saying, Give us some greater faith, help us to be stronger. We were always so fearful. Help us to be content. Help us to grow. Help us to declare the Word of the Lord.

And then it says. The whole assembly became quiet as they listened to Paul and Barnabas telling about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them the Gentiles, not just the Jews. And when they finished, James spoke up and said, Brothers, listen to me. Simon has described to us how God first showed his concern by taking from Gentiles a people for himself, these Jewish people who become Christians, and now these Gentile people who become Christians all together as one. Is that a beautiful understanding of the even though we sit here with, what, 70 people, 60 or 70 people, we are part of millions people who are in heaven waiting for us, people who are all over the world praying for us as we pray for people all over the world. And so people just started reaching out. And so we have books in the Bible, like the province of Galatia Church and Philippi, various churches all throughout the land at that particular time all tried to come together as one. And one of the joy that they've ever experienced is when Peter would come by or James would come by, or Paul would come by and help us to understand even more. And that's part of our worship, isn't it, coming together every week to just say, can you just give me a positive word, something that will be helpful, something that I can share with someone else? Made their week better, make our week better, make our life better.

So here's the message in Acts Chapter 15, where Jew and Gentile are trying to come together and it wasn't easy. The words of the prophet are in agreement. Where he says, After this I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild and I will restore that the remnant of men and women may seek the Lord in all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord who does these things. See, for years, the Jewish people, even the Jewish Christians, just thought the Gentiles were a different group altogether. They don't eat the same food. They don't think the same way. Completely different. And then. And then the work of the Holy Spirit gathers all the people to come together as one, if they wish. So letters are sent out. I mean, how do you do it back then? You can't just send an email. There are people scattered all over Israel in different parts of Europe and Asia. What do we do with all of that? We don't even know all the churches that existed back then. We know some. How do you get this message out? So they hired mailmen, prophets. We'll take the message and it says what they read. They were glad for the encouraging message. Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the brothers and sisters. And after spending some time there, they were sent off by the brothers with the blessing of peace to send off again. So these people that were sent by the apostles, they went. Then they came back and they whispered to other people, you know, I just I just got back from doing this. There's this little group of people over there. They need help. Would you go and would you go here and would you go here? Would you go there? We don't know all these preachers and prophets in the New Testament. One day I hope that we'll get to see them, that this book of Acts is this encouragement of how we can live post resurrection in a reality today.

And so in Acts Chapter 17, when Paul was preaching and a lot of people don't accept his message, here's what he says. Verse 24, The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of Heaven and the Lord of Earth. He does not live in temples built by hands, and he's not served by human hands as if he needed anything because he himself gives all men and women life and breath and everything else from one man. He made every nation of men that they should inhabit the whole earth. And he determined the exact time set up for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men and women would seek him and perhaps reach out for him, find him, though God is not far from each one of us. For in him, we live, we move. We have our own being. Incredible. But God has given us this gracious, precious gift. So what happens after the resurrection? The same word is going to be expressed over and over again, all throughout the Book of Acts. People along the road declaring the Word of the Lord to others wasn't so much. We're going to have a gospel meeting at a church. There was no such thing. It was just people gathering together, coming together as one sharing. And all of a sudden we come across wonderful people, people like Aquila and Priscilla and other people in the Bible.

And then in Acts chapter 19, Paul is on his way to Ephesus in it says While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, Do you have you receive the Holy Spirit? And they said, We didn't even know there was a Holy Spirit. So Paul said, What baptism did you receive? And they said, John's baptism, a baptism where it's just repentance of sin. So they encouraged them more and they were baptized into Jesus Christ death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and our absolute dedication to the Lord by doing the same thing in our baptism, death, burial and resurrection, not physical death. I mean, how many of us have seen a baptism? How many of us have been baptized? Is precious. Somebody coming into the water saying, I want to be a Christian. And so someone helping him in the water. The question that's usually asked is,

do you believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God? I've been a preacher for a long time. Some of the answers to that question is unique. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Saviour? And one person said, I sure do, and so do you. And she dunked my head underneath the water just so excited. She just didn't know what else to do. She wasn't trying to be rude or be unfaithful. Everything just she's just so happy.

And that encouragement is for all of us. We remember our baptism, and if you're here today, you've never been baptized. Is something that you may want to consider. It represents the death, the burial and the resurrection of Christ. Jesus blessing us. So all the way through this book of acts, they're there encouraging one another. And toward the end of the book and I'll just conclude with this in chapter 26. This is on one of the journeys I was going on to Damascus. This is chapter 26. In verse 12, on one of these journeys, I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. At noon O King I was on board. This is talking to the king himself, Paul. He's in prison. So many times. Being in prison, he's always having to defend himself. And here he is defending himself about noon, O king, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven brighter than the sun blazing around me and my companions. We all fell to the ground. And I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic. So, so why do you persecute me? And then I ask, Who are you, Lord? These are just words. I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. Now get up on your feet. I have. I have prepared to appoint you as a servant and as a witness that you have seen. And I will show you and I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles and I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn from the darkness.

And so when Paul does all of this, he's baptized into Christ Jesus. He couldn't help himself but preach and preach the Word of the Lord. So let me just finish up with the end of the Book of Acts. After all of these journeys, after all of the preaching, after all these conversions, how does this end up? I think it's pretty unique. So in Acts Chapter 28, which is start reading in verse 23, they arranged to meet Paul on a certain day and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying from morning until evening. He explained and declared to them the Kingdom of God and tried to convince them about Jesus by the Law of Moses and the prophets. If you're not going to hear me, what about the prophets? What about the law? It's all coming together as one verse 24, some were convinced by what he said, but others, and it's true today, would not believe they disagreed among themselves and they began to leave. After Paul made his final statement, the Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your forefathers when he said to Isaiah, the Prophet, go to this people and say you will be ever hearing but never understanding. You will be ever seeing, but never perceiving. From this people's heart has become calloused. They hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes as eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes and hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn. And I would heal them. And that's true to this day. Some will just say no, but then there are others who will say, I can't believe what a special promise and gift God has allowed us to have through Jesus Christ. Therefore, I want you to know that God's salvation has been sent to the Gentiles and they will listen. And then He says, For two whole years, Paul stayed in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. And then these last words, which I think is precious, boldly and without hindrance, he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ. May that also be true of us boldly and without hindrance, preaching the Kingdom of God and teaching people about the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Closing

You're all going to go home and you're going to have a meal, and before long you're going to be hungry again. And without that meal you would die. This is a much better meal. The more you eat more, you want to eat, and you will never, ever get to full and you will never be hungry again. But if you stop eating, it won't be long until you die. So it's it's a little bit different. Thank you, God, so much for your word. And thank you, God, for for your son and for for the blessings that we have and for the privilege that we have of being able to study your word and to read your word and to grow more like you because of it. In Jesus name, amen.

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