



TRUE LIGHT

Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. ~ Psalm 119:105

April 12, 2020

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30AM
Worship.....10:15AM
Worship.....5:00PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

MINISTER

Stan Dauck
573-293-5620

ELDERS

David Burleson
573-820-0329
David Carson
573-276-5567
Stan Dauck
573-293-5594

DEACONS

Wayne Reams
Joe Watson
Rodney Williams
Tim Woods

OFFICE: 573-293-5620
Bernie Church of Christ
P.O. Box 366
Bernie, MO 63822

EMAIL:
berniechurchofchrist
@gmail.com

WEBSITE:
www.berniechurchofchrist.com

*"This is the day the Lord
has made. Let us rejoice
and be glad in it."*

Psalms 118:24

**We Welcome You
To All Of Our
Services**

Easter Clothes

The story is about Mary Magdalene. We know little of her. She first shows up supporting Jesus' ministry and we find out that she previously had seven demons in her and had been healed by Jesus, so she was following him and supporting Jesus financially along with some other women (Luke 8:1-3). If someone came and commanded seven demons out of me, I'd stick close to him, too.

Then she shows up in Mark, Matthew, and John near the cross during the crucifixion. Luke refers to "women who had followed him from Galilee" who were standing at a distance, too. Most likely, Mary was one of those women.

She's also found going to the tomb after Jesus had been buried. It's the beginning of the week. Still dark. This Jesus - the one she had been following - had died and was put in a tomb. So when John says it was "still dark" he means the sun had not come up yet in the land, but the sun hadn't come up in her heart yet, either.

You know what that's like, don't you? Rough time at work. Rocky relationship. Routine checkup revealed "something." Then a new week dawns, and with it you hope there is something new, something fresh and full of hope.

That's what Mary found. The huge stone in front of the tomb had been rolled away. She ran to tell Peter and John. They raced like Usain Bolt to the tomb, with John nipping Peter at the tape. They looked in and saw only the linen cloths. John believed. Peter still seemed bewildered. Then they went back home.

[Does this sound] a little like our Sundays today? We dress up and go to church and see something. Then we go back to our homes not quite sure what to do with what we just experienced. Not so with Mary. Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. She hadn't put two and two together yet. Then she sees two angels sitting where Jesus' body has been. They ask her why she's crying. She says, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." She thinks someone has stolen the body. Nothing fresh and nothing full of hope here...

Then something grand happens. She turns around and sees Jesus standing. Not lying down. Not dead. But alive and standing.

Problem is, she doesn't recognize him. She thinks he's the gardener and she supposes he might have taken the body somewhere. So Mary asks him to tell her where he's laid Jesus' body. Of course he hasn't. He is "the body" for whom she's looking. Except now, to Mary, he looks like the gardener. No offense to gardeners, but they're usually a bit sweaty, with rumpled soiled clothing, and dirt under their fingernails.

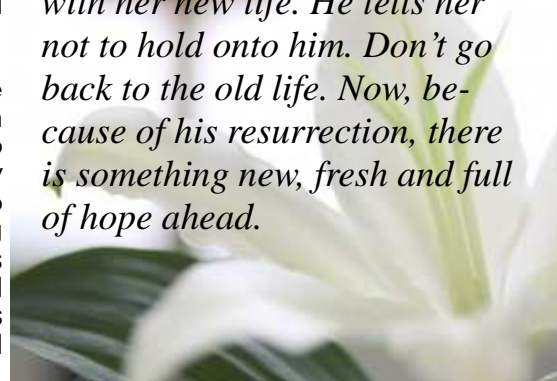
I know this about gardeners. I was a gardener once. At one time, we decided to grow a garden in our back yard. We plotted out a section. I rented a tiller and churned up the ground. We planted seeds and we watered and we watched things grow. We had a great time with our young boys getting dirty in the garden growing things. New things. But we never wore our Easter clothes when we tended the garden!

Neither does Jesus. You'd expect the resurrected Jesus to be flashing a mega-watt smile, wearing a new suit, and modeling manicured nails. Instead he shows up looking like a...gardener. Maybe something new, fresh and full of hope actually is happening in the garden around the garden tomb!

We mostly hear this story and think the main thing Jesus is saying to us is that he is risen and therefore, someday, we will rise too. We think that because that's what we usually hear on Easter Sunday while we're sitting politely in our dressed up selves, shushing kids

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*Jesus the gardener takes Mary
and gives her something to do
with her new life. He tells her
not to hold onto him. Don't go
back to the old life. Now, be-
cause of his resurrection, there
is something new, fresh and full
of hope ahead.*



CELEBRATING THIS WEEK**BIRTHDAYS**

April 12 - Maura Thomason
 April 13 - Casey Karnes
 April 15 - Lois McKuinn
 Traci McKuinn
 April 17 - Bailey Mays
 John Neely

OUR RECORD FOR LAST WEEK

Contribution - \$3711

CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Cold Cereal * Rubber Gloves * All
 Fabric Bleach * Aluminum Foil *
 Non-aerosol Bathroom Cleaner *
 Bottled Apple Juice

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Cereal * canned spaghetti sauce *
 crackers * canned vegetables
Monetary donations are appreciated.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

"...I was sick and you visited me..." Matthew 25:36

Remember: **Morris Karnes** had surgery Wednesday at St. Francis to remove a cancerous tumor from his tongue and is doing well * **Jeff McGowan's** PET scan was good and the spots were not cancerous * **Johnny Dauck**, Stan's brother, is in the hospital in Jonesboro with masses in his stomach. He was scheduled for a biopsy Friday * **Curtis McClard** continues to improve at home * **Helen McGowan** was hospitalized Wednesday and released Thursday. She will begin dialysis within the next few days * **David Carson's** MRI came out good. His lungs will be checked at a later date * **Pansy Zimmerman** continues to decline * **Sharlette Watson**

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Louella Akers * John David Barnett * David Burleson * Pam Claeys * Billie Cooper * Scott and Judy Flannery * Sue Flowers * Grant Howard * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Kevin Mickey * Reba Owens * Ida Roberts * Gayle Rodgers * Waynetta Rodgers * Elwood Rush * Jane Smith * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Joy Watson * Marty Watson * Pansy Zimmerman

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Kristi Altman * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Dale Eaton * Carole Eubanks * Bill Fitzpatrick * Kim Goins * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Andy Kelley * Connie Lemmons * Annette Lumsden * Phil McKuinn * Ponna Mahan * Paula Mason * Betty Nicholson * Donnie Rawlings * Gerald Robertson * Deanna Rogers * Tammy Telker * Bobby Thornton

Other health issues (non-congregational):

Megan Brenna * DeeDee Burch * Mary Burke * Renee Goodman * Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Nikki Lawrence * Sonja Mays * Alvin Miller * Tom Provance * Gene Rowland * Traci Suiter * Paige Tanner

Our Shut Ins

Lois McKuinn * Marty Watson * Joy Watson * Elwood Rush * Sue Flowers * Travis Cooper * Shirley Johnson * Isaac Wheeler * Fern Botsch

For the time being, Amy will be in the office on Fridays from about 8:30 to 1 or 1:30 and will be available to assist you with getting communion supplies or dropping off your contribution. She will come to your vehicle if you would prefer not to leave it. Also, if you are in need of any other supplies please let us know and we will do our best to help fill that need.

REMINDER:

All activities/meetings at the building have been cancelled or postponed until further notice. You can watch Stan present a live devotional Sunday mornings at 10:15 and Wednesday evenings at 6 on his Facebook page, and we will try to share it on the Bernie church of Christ page, as well as the Bernie church of Christ Youth Group page. Everyone stay safe as we weather this storm together.

until the message is over, then we can all go get chocolate eggs and eat them to our heart's content.

But maybe, just maybe, we need to hear Jesus like we've never heard before - like everything is new, fresh, and full of hope. Mary's example can help us. She thinks he's the gardener. Then Jesus says, "Mary." He calls her by name. He calls to her in her tears - not when everything is right in the world ... not when she's all gussied up with a smile on her face and perfectly coiffed for Easter Sunday. He calls her by name when it's still dark - in the garden and in her heart. He calls her by name while she's crying and confused and hanging out alone in a cemetery.

We need to hear that about Jesus on Easter Sunday. He knows us. And he will call to us even when we don't look our best. He called some smelly fishermen and a tax collector and a zealot who wanted to start an uprising. He hung out with prostitutes and the poor. He didn't tell them to go make sure they looked their best before he came to them.

And he didn't with Mary. Jesus doesn't just look like a gardener. This is not some silly mistake that Mary made because her eyes were all teared up. He *is* a gardener. He was at the beginning of the creation. He created the first garden where everything was new and no one knew sin. So the first thing he does after he is raised from the dead is show up as a gardener again at the new beginning... the beginning of a new week and a new life with something fresh and full of hope to share with us.

Who of us doesn't want something new, fresh, and full of hope in our lives? And if you need something new to grow in your life, you need a gardener. You need someone who knows how to cultivate the soil of your life and plant the seeds of hope for a new life in you. That's what we've missed in this Jesus. He's not there to announce that *someday* you will be resurrected.

Jesus the gardener takes Mary and gives her something to do with her new life. He tells her not to hold onto him. Don't go back to the old life. Now, because of his resurrection, there is something new, fresh and full of hope ahead.

Mary understood. And she does what Jesus the gardener tells her to do - take that seed of hope and plant it into others. So she goes to where the others are hiding and tells them she has seen the "Lord." That wasn't just a nice, formal way of talking about him, either. It was her telling them that Jesus is who he said he was all along.

And if you're not convinced yet that this gardener can do new things, look no further than Mary. Until now, Jesus had only sent out men. In his culture, women were not considered credible witnesses in court. And now, of all times, he first sends a woman on mission with this great news.

You don't have to be looking your best to bump into Jesus. Look for him like Mary did. When you hear your name, then go live a new life, where everything is fresh and full of hope!