



April 18, 2021



*At Kernstown, we make Disciples as we:
Know God
Grow in God
Sow God into the World*

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**Pastor Aaron Fitch 540-532-9493
afitch@kernstownumc.org**

bold print = all respond

3rd Sunday of Easter
Native American Ministries Sunday
April 18, 2021

IN-PERSON SERVICE – 10:20 a.m.

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

David Landrum

Lighting of Altar Candles

Greeting

Pastor Aaron Fitch

Call to Worship

Leader: Answer us when we call, O God.

People: Be gracious to us and hear our prayer.

When we are in distress, You make space for us.

You put gladness in our hearts, as with a fine feast.

When we are disturbed, may we not sin, but ponder things on our beds, and be silent.

I will both lie down and sleep in peace. For You alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.

Hymn

The Day of Resurrection

UMH 303

Prayer of Confession

Sandy Dunkle

Holy God, we give thanks that You often reveal Yourself to be different from our expectations. When we long for the love we have known in the past, our eyes are dimmed to the beauty You reveal to us now. As Your first followers struggled to see how a suffering Savior could be the Messiah, we strain to recognize You still today. Come, Spirit, make Yourself known in the study of scripture, in our songs of praise, and especially in the grace and love we offer one another. Make Yourself known in every friend we have yet to meet in Your good and blessed Name. Amen.

Words of Assurance Pastor Aaron
Christ lived, died, and rose again for us, even while we were sinners. This is proof of God's love for us. In the Name of Christ, we are forgiven!

Special Music David Landrum

Prayer for Illumination Sandy Dunkle
For all who lose sight of hope, adjust our perspective, catch our eye, and touch us, Risen Savior, with Your surprising presence. Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept Your Word. Silence in us any voice but Your own that, hearing, we may also obey Your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading *Acts 3:12-19 (New Testament)*

Sermon Pastor Aaron
"The Good News Goes Into the World"

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer **UMH 895**

Apostles' Creed **UMH 881**

Hymn *Christ Has Risen* **TFWS 2115**

*The Benediction Pastor Aaron
Go forth in peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Postlude David Landrum

CCLI # 11408803

Be faithful in prayer - Romans 12:12 NIV

WINCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER:

CARE FACILITIES:

Consulate Health Care: Connie Mitchell (PA)

Spring Arbor: Marietta Lipscomb (#239)

Mount Vernon Nursing Center: Virginia Ebbs

Search Group Home: Steven Dobbin

Sunrise at Bon Air: Irene Gates (#205)

Orchard Woods: Phyllis Baker

Lynn Care: Rosalie Wehn (Mimi's grandmother)

UPCOMING SURGERIES: Russell Parrish – kidney stone on 4/19;
Marcy Cormier – cataracts on 4/20

SYMPATHY: Long/Ruckman families; Shirley Dick & family;
Walker/Richards families; Tisinger/Chapman families; Ruth
Bennington & family; Perry/Martin family; Bill Tharpe & family

MILITARY: CPO Tiffany McMahan; MMN3 Seth Anton; LTC Tom
Crowley; Jared Castro, ROTC

OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS: Pastor Aaron, Cooper, & Elise;
Leathia Conrow; Pastor Clay Knick – lymphoma; Hannah Henshaw;
Margo Cross; Margaret DeMayo; the Wilsons; the Gordons; the
Burchards; Marshall Carper; Lloyd Henry; Judy Allen; Jeanne Newlin
& Janie Slater; Peggy Gillich; Polly Look & family

Missionaries: Gregg & Jayne Yarian; Pastor Michael & Lupe Geiss

Local Missions: VAN (Valley Assistance Network), The Winchester
Rescue Mission, Lord Fairfax Food Bank, C-CAP

At Home: Bryan Hartley, Pat Price, Jean Snider, Mary Kathryn Clark,
Tina Weagley, Florence Roman

Weekly Prayer Requests

April 11

Peggy Gillich; Karrie McCall; Barbara Baltimore; Allison Finley-Harris (Barbara Baltimore's cousin); Shirley Dick; Gene Wise – had surgery on 4/16; Helen Fitch; Todd Tatum; Marci (friend of Barbara Hoover); Lee Lichvar

April 4

Betty Lou Langager; Marshall Carper; Marcy Cormier; Lawton MacDonald; Frank Moore; Hayley Moore; Evelyn Jennings; Phyllis Baker; Debbie & Russell Parrish; Marietta Lipscomb; Mark & Pam Lipscomb

March 28

Bill Tharpe & family; Lisa Dawson; Lawrence, who is homeless; Rich Lichvar; Simone Poulin (Danny Aube's aunt); praise for Helen Fitch & Steve Spurr both getting good reports at the heart doctor

March 21

Katie Teets; Loretta (Marcy Cormier's sister); Paul Rinker; Polly Look – cataracts surgery; Pastor Phil Brumback; all the pastors who are packing and preparing to move; Beverley (the Markleys' daughter)

***If you would like for us to lift up a prayer request, please call the office at 540-667-7298 or email us at, csteele@kernstownumc.org. We also have prayer request slips in the pews you can fill out and place in the offering plate. These names will remain on this list for four weeks.*



Announcements

IN-PERSON WORSHIP – In-person worship is going back to 10:20 a.m. starting TODAY! Also, remember you no longer need to register with the church office to attend in-person worship on Sunday mornings – just show up! All other guidelines that we are required by the Virginia Conference to follow remain in place at this time: you must wear your mask at all times while in the church, plan to affirm your health at the door with the entry greeter, the seating usher will seat you, no singing (but hopefully soon!), and always practice social distancing. We also plan to resume communion on the first Sunday of each month, using pre-packaged communion cups. See you in church!

ONLINE WORSHIP – Starting today, the online worship service will be a live-stream of the 10:20 a.m. in-person worship service, and not the pre-recorded service.

IN-PERSON COMMITTEE MEETINGS - As of April 1, 2021, Kernstown UMC will be open for church committees to meet in-person in the fellowship hall. The Committee Chair will need to contact the church office in advance to reserve their date/time in order to avoid scheduling conflicts. For the meeting, each committee will be responsible for setting up the fellowship hall with proper social distancing and for sanitizing the space after the meeting. As with worship services, masks must be worn at all times while in the church building and attendees will have to affirm their health per the Health Poster upon arrival. We *cannot* use the kitchen, and *no food* may be brought in or consumed during meetings. At this time, Sunday School classes and other KUMC small groups will also be permitted to meet *during the week* in the fellowship hall – just call the church office to reserve your date/time. If you have any questions, please contact Lorraine Shelton, chair of the Healthy Church Team, at 540-771-8301 or lorraineshelton0566@gmail.com.

PASTOR AARON OFF – Pastor Aaron will be off April 23 – 25. Retired Rev. Bob Throckmorton has graciously stepped in to cover and will be preaching next Sunday, April 25!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Submissions for our May newsletter are due tomorrow, Monday, April 19, at 12 noon.

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP – The Women's Study Group will resume meeting on Tuesdays, starting this week on April 20, at 1:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We will pick back up with Chapter 7 in the Disciple study manual.

MEN'S CORE GROUP MEETING – The next meeting of the Men's Core Group will be Tuesday, April 27, at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

DISTRICT UMW UMCOR PROJECT – The UMW are sponsoring UMCOR School Kits and Hygiene Kits during March, April, and May. The list of items required for each type of kit was included in the April newsletter. Bring your items and/or completed kits to the church – there is a box in the mission room.

WANTED: KUMC OCC PROJECT LEADER -

We are still looking for someone to be the OCC Project Leader for Kernstown UMC congregation. The Project Leader will plan, promote, facilitate, and coordinate the collection of shoebox gifts throughout the year among the KUMC congregation. Interested in learning more? Check out our OCC page on our website – there is a short video at the bottom of that page about the Project Leader position. If you feel a calling to spearhead this project for our church, please contact **Bob Greatorex** (540-662-3137 or greatorex@yahoo.com).



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER – Thursday, May 6, 2021 is the annual observance of this special day, inviting people of all faiths to pray for our nation. Created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the U.S. Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman, Americans are encouraged to turn to God in prayer and quiet reflection on this day. Mark your calendars!



CALENDAR OF OPPORTUNITIES

April 18 through April 25

Sunday, April 18

10:20 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary / Live Stream)

Monday, April 19

12 noon Newsletter deadline

Tuesday, April 20

1:30 p.m. Women's Study Group (FH)

Wednesday, April 21

1:00 p.m. Intercessory Prayer with Pastor (Live Stream)

Sunday, April 25 - *Rev. Bob Throckmorton preaching*

10:20 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary / Live Stream)



SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF April 18th:
Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; and Luke 24:36b-48

KERNSTOWN UMC
April 18, 2021
Text: Acts 3:12-19
Title: “The Good News Goes Into the World”

Acts 3:12-19

12 When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? 13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. 14 But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, 15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. 16 And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. 17 “And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18 In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. 19 Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

Introduction

[RAMP] Remember playing Hide and Seek as a kid, or maybe with your kids and grandkids? You count to 10 or 20 and then shout, “Ready or not, here I come!” If you peeked while counting, then you were cheating, but if they hadn’t found a place to hide by the time you finished counting, then too bad. You were going after them.

[RELEVANCE] The Gospel goes out into the world like one playing Hide and Seek. The countdown is finished, and the time is now - ready or not. The Disciples were not ready, because they were still trying to figure out the implications of Jesus’ resurrection and ascension. But they were as ready as they would ever be, and they had recently received the Holy Spirit Who would help and guide them in making disciples.

[OUTCOME] When is it a good time to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ? The right time is now. Ready or not! How do we do this?

Body

[CONTEXT] “The emphasis in Acts 3 and 4 is on the name of the Lord Jesus (Acts 3:6, 16; 4:7, 10, 12, 17–18, 30). A name, of course, implies much more than identification; it carries with it authority, reputation, and power.”ⁱ

“But the name of the Lord Jesus has all authority behind it, for He is the Son of God (Matt. 28:18). Because His name is “above every name” (Phil. 2:9–11), He deserves our worship and obedience. The great concern of the first Christians was that the name of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, be glorified, and believers today should have that same concern.

As we study this section, we should note that the Jewish emphasis is very pronounced. Peter addressed Jewish men (Acts 3:12) and called them “children of the prophets, and of the covenant” (v. 25). He referred to the Jewish fathers (v. 13) as well as to the prophets (vv. 18, 21–25). The phrase “times of restitution” (v. 21) is definitely Jewish and refers to the messianic kingdom promised in the prophets. The message is still going out “to the Jew first” (Rom 1:16) and is presented in Jewish terms.”ⁱⁱ

[P.O.D. #1] **The Good News brings life.** Peter asked those who were at the Temple, “why do you wonder at this?” Peter was referring to the miracle that the Holy Spirit performed to heal the man begging, so that he could stand, walk, jump, and run. God gives miracles so that the Message of Jesus Christ will be authenticated. The same thing Jesus did, so too were Jesus’ disciples doing. This would help bystanders recognize that the Good News of Jesus’ was in fact true.

“The lame beggar needed salvation. The Holy Spirit was looking at the man’s inward need, while it is so easy for us to focus on the outward need. God brings life, and God brought life to the lame man in an amazing way. “45), the two apostles had no money to give, but money was not what the man needed most. He needed salvation for his soul and healing for his body, and money could provide neither. Through the power of the name of Jesus, the beggar was completely healed, and he was so happy and excited that he acted like a child, leaping and praising God.”ⁱⁱⁱ

“It is easy to see in this man an illustration of what salvation is like. He was born lame, and all of us are born unable to walk so as to please God. Our father Adam had a fall and passed his lameness on to all of his descendants (Rom. 5:12–21). The man was also poor, and we as sinners are bankrupt before God, unable to pay the tremendous debt that we owe Him (Luke 7:36–50). He was “outside the temple,” and all sinners are separated from God, no matter how near to the door they might be. The man was healed wholly by the grace of God (Eph. 2:8–9), and the healing was

immediate (Acts 3:7). He gave evidence of what God had done by “walking, and leaping, and praising God” (v. 8) and by publicly identifying himself with the apostles, both in the temple (v. 11) and in their arrest (4:14). Now that he could stand, there was no question where this man stood!’’^{iv}

Here we see the lame man’s exuberance and excitement from being healed physically, which led to him being healed spiritually. The relationship between him and God is new, and every moment brings a new revelation about God that seems to be better than the last. But, like all relationships, over time the relationship changes. Those times of excited exuberance do continue, but it seems as if they occur less and less. It isn’t necessarily because a person’s love wanes, in fact, it could be that because a person’s love is so strong for God, or the other person, that they know God well. What God does in this Believer’s life may not be as surprising as it continues to confirm what is already known - God loves me deeply.

Throughout our lives, God will continue to do miracles, as He did when we received salvation, so that we may continually know that what the Holy Spirit speaks to our heart, mind, and soul is true. God’s mercies are new every morning, and they appear to us often times in normal everyday experiences, but mercies they are. We may not jump and shout at every mercy, but every mercy should continue to make our soul jump and shout joyously within us.

When we remind ourselves that Jesus living present with us through the Holy Spirit gives abundant life, then we will desire the abundant life for others. This knowledge and experience of life in fellowship with the Holy Spirit living abundantly can motivate us to love our Neighbor by sharing with them the best gift anyone could ever give and that is the message of Jesus Christ. **The Good News brings life.**

[P.O.D. #2] **The Good News brings indictment.** “In his sermon at Pentecost, Peter had to refute the accusation that the believers were drunk. In this sermon, he had to refute the notion that he and John had healed the man by their own power. (Paul and Barnabas would face a similar situation after healing a lame man. See Acts 14:8–18.) Peter immediately identified the source of the miracle – Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Wisely, Peter said that this was the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The Spirit certainly gave Peter boldness as he reminded the Jews of the way they had treated Jesus. They had denied Him and delivered Him up to be crucified. Even worse, they had asked for a guilty man, Barabbas, to be set free so that an innocent prisoner might be crucified! In order to convince them of

their crimes, Peter used several different names and titles for our Lord: God's Son, Jesus, the Holy One, the Just One, the Prince (Pioneer) of life. This was no ordinary man that they had handed over to the Romans to crucify!

There must be conviction before a sinner can experience conversion. Unless a patient is convinced that he is sick, he will never accept the diagnosis or take the treatment. Peter turned the temple into a courtroom and laid all the evidence out for everybody to see. How could two ordinary fishermen perform such a great miracle unless God was with them? Nobody would dare deny the miracle because the beggar stood there before them all in "perfect soundness" (Acts 3:16; 4:14). **To accept the miracle would have been to admit that Jesus Christ is indeed the living Son of God and that His name has power.**^{vi} Once again the miracle is given, to authenticate the message. Jesus' Name had been used to heal a man who was lame.

The fact that the message of Jesus brings indictment is why sharing the Gospel is a challenge for followers of Jesus today. When we tell another about Who Jesus is, and What Jesus did to bring forgiveness and salvation to sinners we, "formally charge, or accuse, the person with whom we speak of a serious crime."^{vi} The serious crime is being a sinner who needs to be forgiven of sin to receive salvation. People immediately respond to the charge that they are a sinner with the reply, "I'm not that bad. I haven't killed anyone." John Wesley believed that non-believers were incapable of doing any good work, because the sinful nature within them made doing anything with pure motive impossible. Only Jesus can break the power of sin, and non-believers have not allowed Jesus to do so in their lives.

How we go about sharing this truth is critical to whether or not a person accepts it and then looks for a Savior. Since making disciples is the work of the Holy Spirit, we must follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. **We are to follow the Holy Spirit concerning our attitude.** Why do we want someone to receive Jesus as Savior - because we care about them or just want them to know we are correct and know the truth? **We are to follow the Holy Spirit concerning the way in which we share the message of Jesus.** Everyone is different and has different personalities, likes, dislikes, hobbies, life experiences, and all of these factors determine when and how we share the Gospel with them. Often, I rush ahead of the Holy Spirit and share the Gospel my way and at a convenient time for me. This results in an ineffective sharing of the Gospel. Since the Gospel brings indictment, we must follow the leading of the Holy Spirit when sharing with others about Jesus. **The Good News brings indictment.**

[P.O.D. #3] **The Good News brings encouragement.** “But Peter did not leave the people without hope. In fact, he almost seemed to defend them by pointing out that they had acted in ignorance (Acts 3:17) while at the same time they had fulfilled the Word of God (v. 18).

In the Old Testament law, there is a difference between deliberate sins and sins of ignorance (see Lev. 4–5; Num. 15:22–31). The person who sinned presumptuously was a rebel against God and was guilty of great sin. He was to be “cut off” from his people (Num. 15:30–31), which could mean excommunication and even death. The defiant “high-handed” sinner was condemned, but the person who sinned unwittingly and without deliberate intent was given opportunity to repent and seek God’s forgiveness. Ignorance does not remove the sinner’s guilt, but it does mitigate the circumstances.

Having announced the crime, presented the evidence, and explained the nature of their sin, Peter then offered them pardon (Acts 3:19–26)! What a strange thing for the prosecuting attorney to become the defense attorney and the pardoning judge! Peter’s burden was to encourage his people to trust Christ and experience His gracious salvation.

What did he tell them to do? **First of all, they had to repent of their sins** (see Acts 2:38; 5:31; 17:30), which means to have a change of mind about themselves, their sin, and Jesus Christ. True repentance is admitting that what God says is true, and because it is true, to change our minds about our sins and about the Savior.

Second, they had to be converted, “to turn again,” and exercise saving faith in Jesus Christ. The biblical message is “repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21), and the two go together. Unless we turn from our sins, we cannot put saving faith in Jesus Christ. Balanced evangelism presents to the sinner both repentance and faith.

Peter announced what would happen if they repented and turned to Jesus Christ: “in order that your sins may be blotted out, in order that the times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, in order that He may send Jesus Christ” (literal translation). There was a promise for the individual (sins forgiven) and a promise for the nation (times of spiritual refreshing). Peter was actually calling for national repentance, for the nation through its leaders had denied its Messiah and condemned Him to die. The declaration is that, if the nation repented and believed, the Messiah would return and establish the promised kingdom. The nation did not repent – and certainly God knew this would happen – so the message eventually moved from the Jews to the Samaritans (Acts 8) and to the Gentiles (Acts 10).

When Peter spoke about “these days,” to what “days” was he referring? The days of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, the days when God’s prophet would speak to His people and offer them

salvation. The nation's rejection of Him made them especially guilty because the Jews were the privileged "sons of the prophets and of the covenant." They had sinned against a flood of light!

True witness involves the "bad news" of sin and guilt as well as the "good news" of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. There can be no true faith in Christ unless first there is repentance from sin. It is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to convict lost sinners (John 16:7–11), and He will do this if we faithfully witness and use God's Word."^{vii}

The Holy Spirit convicts non-believers of their sin, so that they will be moved to receive Jesus as Savior. When sharing the message of Jesus, we are not to leave people in despair with the knowledge that they are sinners. Peter gave the people, to whom he was preaching, an opportunity to be forgiven by God. Peter urged the Jews to repent and receive salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. The message of Jesus does not end with just telling a person they are sinful, but instead ends on a high note that offers eternal life through belief in the work and Person of Jesus Christ. If we want to encourage someone, then we will be ready to share the Good News with them. **The Good News brings encouragement.**

Conclusion

[GOOD NEWS] The Good News of Jesus has been, and will continue to be, bursting into the lives of people – ready or not – for 2000 years. We, God's children, can be confident to share the Good News with everyone we meet because the Good News brings **abundant life, indictment of sin, and the encouragement of salvation.** If these were not enough reasons to share the Gospel, then knowing that the Holy Spirit is with us to accomplish this task can make evangelism a reality in our lives. Amen.

ⁱ Wiersbe, Warren W.. Be Dynamic (Acts 1-12): Experience the Power of God's People: NT Commentary Acts 1-12 (The BE Series Commentary) (pp. 47-48). David C Cook. Kindle Edition.

ⁱⁱ Wiersbe, Warren W.. Be Dynamic (Acts 1-12): Experience the Power of God's People: NT Commentary Acts 1-12 (The BE Series Commentary) (pp. 47-48). David C Cook. Kindle Edition.

ⁱⁱⁱ Wiersbe, Warren W.. Be Dynamic (Acts 1-12): Experience the Power of God's People: NT Commentary Acts 1-12 (The BE Series Commentary) (p. 49). David C Cook. Kindle Edition.

^{iv} Wiersbe, Warren W.. Be Dynamic (Acts 1-12): Experience the Power of God's People: NT Commentary Acts 1-12 (The BE Series Commentary) (p. 49). David C Cook. Kindle Edition.

^v Wiersbe, Warren W.. Be Dynamic (Acts 1-12): Experience the Power of God's People: NT Commentary Acts 1-12 (The BE Series Commentary) (p. 50-51). David C Cook. Kindle Edition.

^{vi} https://www.bing.com/search?q=what+does+the+word+indictment+mean&cvid=e848fe2886b34a41b52b84a9a9492482&aqs=edg_e.0.0.6080j0j1&pglt=419&FORM=ANNTA1&PC=U531

^{vii} Wiersbe, Warren W.. Be Dynamic (Acts 1-12): Experience the Power of God's People: NT Commentary Acts 1-12 (The BE Series Commentary) (p. 51-55). David C Cook. Kindle Edition.