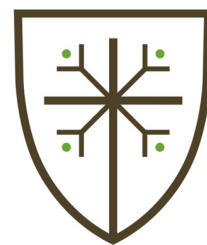


Easter tide

April 9 – May 28

SERMON NOTES



May 7, 2023

SERMON INFO

TITLE

A Place for You

PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

TEXTS

Acts 7:55-60

1 Peter 2:2-6

John 14:1-7, 12

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How might the transient “mobile” culture in which we often find ourselves affect us as humans who naturally have an attachment to place and who long for home? For good or for ill?
2. What other ways, besides Jesus and his Word, do we often use to calm our troubled hearts?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

What is home? And why do we long for it? These are the questions that Tim considered this week in light of our passage from John 11. He gave us three points to consider: troubles, place, and person.

Troubles

The gospel passage states that the disciples “hearts were troubled.” The Greek word for troubled here is “terasso” or set in motion, stirred up, moving back and forth from one place to another. Everything was mixed up. They were facing betrayal, personal failure, and the loss of a loved one. They needed Jesus’ answer for how to calm their troubles, and so do we. The answer Jesus gives them is that what calms the troubled heart is the promise of a home beyond this world. He could’ve said the Spirit, about how the peace of God’s Spirit can calm us in the midst of troubles. But not yet, not here. Here, while he is still with them, he talks about home.

Place

Why are we, as humans, so connected to place? First of all, because of its physicality. Humans will always be connected to places and things because we are physical beings. Christianity uniquely sees us and both physical and spiritual, inextricably combined – personal, individual, and localized. But not all places to which we are connected are home. Home is a place you know you belong, where you are known and loved. Home on this earth gives us but a taste of the home for which we truly long. If you go back to the place here on earth that you remember as home, it will not be the same. Your memory of that place is shaped by the longing for the home Jesus speaks of. No home in this world will ever truly quell the longing we experience. Because that longing is for a place that exists only in the world to come, in the presence of God.

Person

The goal of everything with God is that we might be with him. As God says through John in the book of Revelation, “the dwelling place of God is with man.” Christ came that his Father’s house might be our house. He tells his disciples he goes to prepare a place for them. He will return to bring them there. And that they already know the way. They know the way because they know him. And we know the way because he has sent us his Spirit. We know the way home, the way through troubles, by hanging on to Jesus, to his Word, and to his people.

It is at odds with our culture to say that Jesus is the Way. Tolerance has come to mean not just patience with, but acceptance of, all beliefs, all ways. But, as Tim said, “Our faith stands or falls with the exclusivity of Christ as God and the way home to God.”

There is one home that we seek. And, as we journey toward that home, we will begin to do the works that he did because he is with you and in you.