



"Women at the Tomb" at Chartres Cathedral.

Christ Church UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Dan Stark, Chaplain
Shelley Godley, Chapel Musician
Grand Forks AFB Chapel Team

www.uccmke.org

August 9th, 2020

In this tenth week after Pentecost, we find ourselves coming to worship seeking different things and maybe experiencing mixed emotions. The gospels tell us that the first disciples came to see Jesus' tomb for various reasons and departed from the empty tomb feeling all kinds of ways. When they left the empty tomb, some of them were confused. Others of them were saddened. A few of them were disappointed and did not know what to think. A couple of the disciples left afraid. However, we also hear that a few were filled with joy. As we continue to emerge during the pandemic as a society, each of us is bound to react with a variety of emotions when we experience how the world we knew before has changed. This week, as we hear about how the disciples each responded differently to the empty tomb, we might identify with some of them. We ought to remember that the story does not end at the tomb – it begins with the new life that it offers.

Blessing for the First Time Leaving Shelter

Quinn G. Caldwell

*Now I walk me out my door.
I pray thee, Lord, protect from spores.
Bless, dear Lord, the care I take
Not to worsen this outbreak.
Guide me safely through the day
And bring me home, masked and OK.
Amen.*

Greetings to the Chapel / Livestream

Opening Litany

UCC Worship Ways

Rev. Kaji S. Douša

One: We who dwell in the shelter of the Most High

All: Seek God here.

One: We who come to be inspired and changed

All: Seek God's Spirit here.

One: We who know how little we know

All: Seek God's Word here.

Gathering Song

Chapel Team

Announcements

Worship and Praise

Chapel Team

Offering

Blessing for Mixed Feelings

Molly Baskette

God, they say feelings are a package deal. The yuck and the yum come bundled.

God, they say that all feelings are from you – it's what we do with them that matters.

But what do we do when our feelings come not tidily trussed but muddily tangled, like a fine silver chain that wont be undone no matter how long we labor over it? It sits in a box waiting for a miracle worker.

I take them out again, the pile of feelings. And this time, I ask you to bless them before I begin the work.

Bless the anger and the irritation. Bless the gratitude and the joy-sparks. Bless the compassion and the selfishness, the fear and the courage, the gloom and the hope, and listlessness and the purposeful action. Bless the love in my life, and bless the distance – emotional and physical – between those I would reunite with. Bless the stress, and bless the serenity.

Bless it all, the whole mess, and remind me that having a rainbow of feelings is your light, prisms into spectrum.

I feel a little more ease now. I can see where to begin, to gently untangle, pull there, push there, rest there...and find how it all fits together in one unbroken, beautiful strand.

New Testament

Each of the gospels tells the story of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ in their own unique ways. In the following gospel lessons, the women and other first disciples visit the tomb where Jesus was laid after his crucifixion and death. They each go to the tomb to visit Jesus because of their own motivations. They leave the empty tomb with a variety of different reactions. Today as we explore the return to the tomb in all four biblical gospels, we may be reminded of the reactions we have had when we have returned to spaces and places during the pandemic.

[Matt 28:1-4, Matt 28:8](#)
[Mark 16:1-4, Mark 16:8](#)
[Luke 24:1-2, Luke 24:8-12](#)
[John 20:1, John 20:11-13](#)



“Christus Victor” by Angelico.

Sermon

Emerge: Returning to the Tomb(s)

Rev. Dan Stark

Blessing for the Still-Empty Pews

Matt Laney

The front row used to get teased by the other rows: “No one sits there!” But no more. Never have they all felt so neglected, so lonely.

Now there is only the occasional spider. But, spiders don’t linger, listen, and lounge. Spiders don’t have children who kick and fidget. Spider’s don’t make seats creak with delight. Their hearts aren’t quickened by meeting the Great Carpenter.

Blessed are the church pews, chairs, and benches – welcoming butts, backs, thighs of every shape and size without judgement, without complaint, without any preferences.

Yet, still beaming to be claimed as someone’s regular favorite spot! Blessed are those mercy seats that wait for us, but not alone.

Closing Song
Sending Blessing

Chapel Team
Rev. Kaji S. Douša

The blessing of Almighty God:
+ Source, Word and Spirit, One,
be with us now and always.
Amen

--

If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email pastor@uccmke.org.
Christ Church UCC, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

We are currently gathering in person for worship with safety and sanitation protocols in place.
Learn more here. <https://www.uccmke.org/covid-19>

You can make your offering to Christ Church through [PayPal](#) or by mailing a check to Christ
Church,
915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

