

Easter Sunday 復活主日
April 四月 9, 2023
Matthew 馬太福音 28:1-10
“Greetings!” 「平安！」

I’ve told you the story of Ron, a friend of mine who is a pastor and a funeral director.

我給你們講過羅恩的故事，他是我的一個朋友，是一名牧師和葬禮承辦人。

Because he is a pastor and a funeral director, he not only officiates graveside services, he is responsible for overseeing the preparation of the gravesite.

因為他是一名牧師和葬禮承辦人，他不僅主持墓地安葬禮，還負責墓地的準備工作。

One time, Ron couldn’t find his cell phone.

有一次，羅恩找不到他的手機。

He used the location software on his computer to pinpoint where his phone was.

他使用電腦上的定位軟體來確定手機的位置。

It so happened that earlier that day he had officiated a graveside service.

碰巧的是，那天早些時候，他主持了一場墓地禮拜。

The location software detected the last known position of the phone at the cemetery!

定位軟體檢測到手機在墓地的位置，就是他最後去過的！

Ron realized what had happened.

羅恩意識到發生了什麼。

While he was overseeing the preparation of the gravesite, his phone had fallen into the grave.

當他監督墓地的準備工作時，他的手機掉進了墳墓。

Now it was buried under the casket and several hundred pounds of soil.

現在它被埋在棺材和幾百磅的土壤下。

At this point, when he told a group of us pastors the story, he smiled and said,

這時，當他給我們一群牧師講這個故事時，他微笑著說：

“No wonder nobody answered when I tried to call the phone!”

「難怪我打電話的時候沒人接！」

At dawn on that first Easter morning, Matthew tells us, Mary Magdalene and another Mary went to look at the tomb where Jesus had been buried.

馬太告訴我們，在第一個復活節的早晨，抹大拉的馬利亞和另一個馬利亞去看耶穌被埋葬的墳墓。

No doubt, their hearts would be heavy; their minds filled with uncertainty; their steps slow and cautious.

毫無疑問，他們的心會很沉重;他們的心中充滿了不確定性;他們的腳步緩慢而謹慎。

The last they expect to ever know of Jesus was him nailed to a cross in agony, his cry to heaven, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit,” and his dying breath.

他們慢慢沒有想到見到耶穌的最後一次是他在痛苦中被釘在十字架上，耶穌大聲喊着說：「父啊，我將我的靈交在你手裏！」，他說了這話，氣就斷了。

Now, there was nothing to hope for.

現在，沒有什麼可盼望的了。

Now, like Ron's buried cell phone, there would be no answer.

現在，就像羅恩被埋葬的手機一樣，不會有回應。

Jesus had lost.

耶穌已失去了。

Jesus was dead.

耶穌死了。

God's promises were empty.

神的應許是落空的。

Last year was difficult for me.

去年對我來說很艱難。

My father-in-law died.

我岳父死了。

My father died.

我父親去世了。

My mom had died the previous year.

我媽媽在前一年去世了。

Shortly after my father died, I conducted the short service of internment for both my parents.

在我父親去世后不久，我為我的父母進行了短暫的安葬禮。

I placed the urn with their ashes into the ground.

我把裝有他們骨灰的骨灰盒放在地下。

And around me, close family and friends gathered to honour mom and dad.

在我周圍，親密的家人和朋友聚集在一起向爸爸媽媽致敬。

Others of us have been through the same, some years ago, some very recently.

我們中的其他人也經歷過同樣的事情，幾年前，有一些人可能是最近。

But today, I stand here not like the two Marys on their way to the tomb of Jesus.

但今天，我站在這裡，不像兩位瑪利亞在去耶穌墳墓的路上。

I am sad at my parents' deaths, but I do not grieve without hope.

我對父母的去世感到難過，但我不會沒有盼望地悲傷。

Instead, I have hope because I know something that Mary Magdalene and the other Mary are about to discover.

相反，我有盼望，因為我知道抹大拉的馬利亞和另一個馬利亞即將發現的事情。

As they approach the tomb, the ground shakes, an angel appears, the tomb is opened, and they are told news that will shake the rest of history like no earthquake can:

當他們接近墳墓時，地面震動，天使出現，墳墓被打開，他們被告知的消息將像地震一樣震動整個人類歷史：

“He is not here! He has risen from the dead!”

「他不在這裏，照他所說的，他已經復活了。」

And as they hurry away to announce this Good News – this Gospel – suddenly, suddenly Jesus meets them.

當他們匆匆忙忙地宣佈這個好消息—這個福音—突然間，耶穌遇見了他們。

And what does he say? “Greetings!”

他說什麼？「平安！」

Better translated as “Rejoice! Be glad! Celebrate!”

最好翻譯為「歡喜高興！慶祝吧！」

I do not grieve because Jesus is alive! Resurrected – bodily resurrected.

我不悲傷，因為耶穌活著！復活了—身體復活了。

And he says to me – as he said to me over 40 years ago when I became a Christian, as he has said in the lives of those baptized this morning, as he has said in many of your lives, and as he says to those of you who doubt

他對我說—正如他在 40 多年前我成為基督徒時對我說的那樣，正如他在今天早上受洗的人的生命中所說的那樣，正如他在你們許多人的生命中所說的那樣，正如他對你們這些懷疑的人所說的那樣。

– he says, “Greetings! Rejoice! Be glad! Celebrate! I am alive.”

– 他說：「平安！高興歡喜！慶祝吧！我是活著的。」

This announcement by Jesus makes all the difference for you, for me, for all humanity, for all human history, for eternity.

耶穌的這個宣告對你、對我、對全人類、對全人類歷史、對永恆，帶來了重大的改變。

You see, the Resurrection tells us that Christ’s death on the cross was not in vain.

你看，復活告訴我們，基督在十字架上的死並不是枉然。

In fact, if all we had was the cross, then God is not the living God, nor is he the God of the living, as Jesus said in Mark 12:27.

事實上，如果我們只有十字架，那麼神就不是永生的神，也不是活人的神，正如耶穌在馬可福音 12：27 中所說的那樣。

If all we had was the cross, then death is stronger than God and death is stronger than God’s Word.

如果我們所擁有的只是十字架，那麼死亡比神更強大，死亡比神的話語更強大。

If all we had was the cross, then God’s acts of grace are empty and weak in the face of our greatest enemy – death.

如果我們所擁有的只是十字架，那麼在我們最大的敵人—死亡面前，神所活出的恩典是空虛和軟弱的。

If all we had was the cross, there is no redemption, and we have nothing.

如果我們所擁有的只是十字架，就沒有救贖，我們一無所有。

As the Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:14, 17-18:

正如使徒保羅在哥林多前書 15：14，17-18 中所說：

“...if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ...if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.”

What's more, he adds, Christians who have already died are lost. If all we have is the cross and Christ is not raised, we have nothing.

「基督若沒有復活，我們所傳的就是枉然，你們所信的也是枉然...基督若沒有復活，你們的信就是徒然，你們仍活在罪裏。就是在基督裏睡了的人也滅亡了。」

But Jesus is risen. And because he is risen, death is defeated.

但耶穌復活了。因為他復活了，死亡就被打敗了。

Romans 8:37-39 say, “...we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For ... neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

羅馬書 8：37-39 說：「然而，靠着愛我們的主，在这一切的事上，我們已經得勝有餘了。因為我深信，無論是死，是活，是天使，是掌權的，是有權能的，是現在的事，是將來的事，是高處的，是深處的，是別的受造之物，都不能使我們與 神的愛隔絕，這愛是在我們的主基督耶穌裏的。」

Because Jesus is risen, Jesus' death on the cross has removed my sin.

因為耶穌復活了，耶穌在十字架上的死已經除去了我的罪。

He has brought me into his family and will declare me righteous in his sight when he appears. 他把我帶到他的家裡，當他出現時，在他面前我得以稱為義。

Romans 4:25 says, “He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.”

羅馬書 4：25 說：「耶穌被出賣，是為我們的過犯；他復活，是為使我們稱義。」

Because he is risen, there is no charge that can be brought against me, my sin is forgiven.

因為他復活了，沒有罪名可以控告我，我的罪被赦免了。

Romans 8:33-34 say, “Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.”

羅馬書 8：33-34 說：「誰能控告 神所揀選的人呢？有 神稱他們為義了。誰能定他們的罪呢？有基督耶穌已經死了，而且復活了，現今在 神的右邊，也替我們祈求。」

And because Jesus is risen history itself will be redeemed and life itself has purpose.

因為耶穌復活了，整個歷史將被救贖，生命也有目的。

We're not locked into an endless cycle of birth and death, as many religions believe with reincarnation.

我們並沒有像許多宗教相信的那樣陷入無休止的生死輪迴。

We're not destined for an eventual implosion of the universe, as many humanistic scientists believe.

我們註定不會像許多人文主義科學家所認為的那樣，最終導致宇宙爆炸。

We're not snuffed out when we breathe our last, left to rot in the ground, as many atheists believe.

當我們呼吸最後一口氣時，我們並沒有像許多無神論者所認為的那樣，死後就腐爛在地下。

History itself moves to its conclusion in Jesus Christ because he is risen.

歷史將會在耶穌基督里走向終結，因為他復活了。

So, we know he will return.

所以，我們知道他會再來。

And, as 1 Corinthians 15:24 says, "Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power."

而且，正如哥林多前書 15：24 所說：「再後，終結到了，那時基督既將一切執政的、掌權的、有權能的都毀滅了，就把國交給父 神。」

And after this end, eternity in the New Heavens and the New Earth awaits those who believe. 在此結束之後，永恆的新天新地將在等待著那些相信的人。

Today, Easter Sunday, we conclude our Lent Prayer Project.

今天，復活主日，我們結束了我們的大齋期禱告計劃。

From his Transfigured glory in Matthew 17 to his Kingly entrance in Matthew 21, we've met Jesus.

從馬太福音 17 章耶穌登山變像的榮耀到馬太福音 21 章祂榮入聖城，我們遇見了耶穌。

And today, in Matthew 28, we meet him in his Resurrection triumph.

今天，在馬太福音 28 章，我們在他的復活勝利中遇見了他。

Today, we see him as he is, the Risen Lord.

今天，我們看到他本來的樣子，復活的主。

And he says, "Rejoice! Be glad! Celebrate!"

祂說：「高興歡喜！慶祝吧！」

For as Philippians 2:9-11 declare:

"Therefore, God has highly exalted him and given him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

正如腓立比書 2：9-11 所宣告的：「所以 神把他升為至高，又賜給他超乎萬名之上的名，使一切在天上的、地上的和地底下的，因耶穌的名，眾膝都要跪下，眾口都要宣認：耶穌基督是主，歸榮耀給父 神。」

For as Romans 10:9 says, “If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

因為正如羅馬書 10：9 所說：「你若口裏宣認耶穌為主，心裏信 神叫他從死人中復活，就必得救。」

So, let us join with the church across history and across geography and in eternity,

所以，讓我們與教會一起跨越歷史、地理和永恆，

and announce the confession of Biblical faith: “Christ is Risen.”

並宣告聖經的真理，承認：「基督復活了」。

Ron’s cell phone was lost.

羅恩的手機丟了。

The dead cannot answer.

死人不能回應。

But Jesus is alive.

但耶穌是活著的。

He answers us by his resurrection.

他通過他的復活來回答我們。

Now, we have absolute and certain hope.

現在，我們有絕對和確定的盼望。

There is no fear.

沒有恐懼。

There is no hopeless grief.

沒有無盼望的悲傷。

There is celebration.

有慶祝。

“Greetings,” says Jesus.

耶穌說：「平安。」