



grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

April 2-8, 2018

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon by Rev. Kelley Lane: *“John’s Pentecost: Living as Easter People”*

Notes from sermon on 4/1:	Prayer requests:
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A note to those new to Reveille UMC or visiting: The GPS is a daily, customized Bible study put out by Reveille to prepare readers for the following week’s sermon. The scripture readings usually come from the common lectionary. Each week, the GPS can be found in the bulletin or at www.reveilleumc.org.

Family Focus Question (before sermon):

How does the joy of Easter and Christ’s triumph over death inform our lives? In other words, how does our faith affect our daily choices? How can we share the joy of Easter with our friends?

Questions for small groups (after sermon):

- 1) Of what are you afraid?
- 2) Is there anyone you need to forgive?
- 3) How are peace and forgiveness related?
- 4) How can you be at peace? What do you need to do to accept Christ’s peace?

Monday, April 2: Read John 20:19-25

Happy Easter! Whether you are reading these words on Monday morning as part of a regular habit of following the GPS, or glancing at it during the worship service on Easter morning for the very first time, all of us at Reveille want to thank you for worshipping with us. We also want to ask you an important question- *why did you come? What were you looking for? Were you looking for peace? Were you looking for a sense of community and belonging? Are you in need of forgiveness? Guidance? Do you just want to have a better life, free from fear, guilt, isolation, doubt, and death?*

Then you have come to the right place, because that's why all of us are here. We all want the gifts of Easter, even if we are still struggling with doubt. Doubt's not a bad thing when we ask Jesus to help us have faith, for it helps us seek answers, bringing us closer to God, each other, and ourselves. We invite you to continue seeking answers with us – in worship, in Sunday school and Bible studies, in serving our community, and in fellowship with one another. We look forward to the gifts your presence will bring!

Tuesday, April 3: Read John 20:26-31

When Thomas famously doubted that Jesus had truly risen, Jesus did not turn away from him - he came closer. God does not punish us for our disbelief; rather, he continually calls us to him so that ultimately, through his presence, we will believe. So what's so great about believing? When we believe that we are forgiven, we can enjoy the gift of peace. When we believe we are healed, we enjoy the gift of life. When we believe we are unconditionally loved, we enjoy the perfect intimacy and harmony God created us to have. When we can start believing without having to have repeated, tangible proof, we can enjoy the abundant life Christ died to give us more easily, more quickly, and more sustainably. What's even better, we can help others believe, too. Imagine what changes we can make in ourselves and in our world if everyone who worships at Reveille Easter morning fully embraces the message of Easter and shows the world the joy, peace, and freedom available to us all?

Wednesday, April 4: Read Acts 4:32-35

The Bible is not a book about perfect people who always perfectly follow and interpret the will of God. Rather, it's a love story in which a perfect God perfectly loves a very flawed human race. There are brief times, however, when people are so filled with God's Holy Spirit that they offer us glimpses of what God's kingdom on earth will truly look like. Today's scripture is one of those moments. In the earliest days of the church, the first Christians lived in complete harmony with one another, sharing everything and ensuring no one was left in need. Now, anyone who knows their history knows that, unfortunately, this idyllic condition did not last. That does not, however, diminish the example it set for all of us for millennia to come, nor our responsibility in continually holding a mirror up to ourselves as a church and as individual followers of Christ. What are we holding back from God? Who is left out? Where is there strife and disharmony? How can we better reflect the teachings and life of Christ to the world?

Thursday, April 5: Read 1 John 1:1-2:2

Today's teachings from the first letter of John give us a wonderful blueprint in how to be effective witnesses to God's love and the power of a life in Christ. First, speak as a first-hand witness (verse 1). This involves simply sharing what God has done in our lives, requiring us focus on our own relationship with God and appreciate what God is doing for us, through us, and in us. Second, don't be hypocrites (verse 6). When we preach of light but act out of darkness, we are not only ineffective, we are dangerous. Finally, be real (verse 8). Don't pretend to be perfect, but recognize our faults and sins and confess them. We no longer have to fear condemnation, because we have an advocate in Christ, as well as a sacrificial lamb who has already atoned for all of our sins (verse 2:2). Let us all pray today that God will use our lives to spread this incredible message of God's love and grace.

Friday, April 6: Read Psalm 133

While most of us modern readers cannot easily relate to the joy of having precious oil running down "the beard of Aaron," we certainly can understand how "good and pleasant" it is to live together in unity. We have felt the power of this when it occurs in our places of work, our communities, our churches, and our own homes. We also know the turmoil, pain, and horror of its absence in the world. Reveille's mission is to "make disciples of Christ, for the healing and transformation of the world." That healing begins with the miracle of Easter – with a Savior who loved his earthly brothers and sisters so much that he died for us, erased our sins, and gave us one commandment: Love God, and love each other. Amen!

Saturday, April 7: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: John 20:31

"[But] These are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and through believing you may have life in his name."

Sunday, April 8: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in prayer our Prayer of Common

Confession: *You have shown yourself to us, O God, by Word and Spirit, with signs and wonders, in flesh and blood, yet we still struggle to live and believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us; forgive us. Enter into our lives and cast our fear so that we may come to trust in you and have life in Jesus' name. Amen.*