

“Resurrection Life”
John 20:19-31

April 23, 2017
2nd Sunday of EASTER

THE BIG IDEA:

“Celebrate New Life!”

“You teach me the way of life. In your presence is total celebration.” Psalm 16:11

INTRODUCTION **“Pleasant Places”**

The psalmist declares God to be the Lord of his life and acknowledges God’s blessings upon him. The psalmist makes a clear choice to serve God. He knows the Lord as the source of his every good. Like the psalmist, we too can choose a relationship with God - a God who listens patiently and offers protection and refuge. As we experience the security of that relationship we will find that our boundary lines fall in “pleasant places.”

I. Holy Spirit and Forgiveness (John 20:19-31)

Then He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” vs. 22

- First, The Jesus offers His disciples PEACE.
- Then Jesus gives them the gift of the HOLY SPIRIT.
- Finally Jesus empowers them to release others from bondage to sin.
- The miraculous gift of God’s forgiveness reconfigures the meaning of our entire lives.
- For us, the gift of forgiveness can bring an additional gift - PEACE

II. Witnesses To The Resurrection (Acts 2:14, 22-32)

“This Jesus, God raised up. We are all witnesses to that fact.” vs. 32

- **Peter is a witness of God’s will for creation.**
- **God’s life-giving intention for the world is revealed as forgiveness of sin and eternal life in Christ.**
- **This good news reconfigures Peter’s entire life narrative.**
- **Our life narrative is radically changed by Christ’s resurrection.**

III. A Living Hope and Tested Faith (1 Peter 1:3-9)

“You have been born anew into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” vs. 3

- **Peter’s realization of the scope and power of God’s grace gives him a living hope that burns within him his entire life.**
- **The resurrection brings new birth, inheritance, and salvation to those who live Jesus.**
- **Genuine faith comes as an imperishable gift that cannot perish even when tested by suffering.**

CONCLUSION *“Secure Joy”*

God will guard the wavering faith of all who believe in Jesus Christ and acknowledge Him Lord of their lives. Our love for Jesus Christ is kept secure, beyond anything that we ourselves can do to secure it. Even though we have not seen the resurrected Jesus, we nevertheless love Him. God’s action of placing faith in our hearts becomes a source of unutterable joy, for it is beyond all of our own wavering doubts and self-questioning.