

The gospel of John is simple, a child can play in it.
The gospel of John is profound and deep, an elephant can swim in it.

Today in Chapter 21 we see both sides of this coin. Jesus appears to his disciples. He comes to them to get them back on track. It is that simple. But it is also deep because the source of error is deep, as deep as our hearts. And so Jesus meets Simon Peter and questions him, confronts him, hurts him and heals him. This is deep, personal, intimate work. Not child's play.

When we see both sides of this we start to know and believe that Jesus won't give up on us. He keeps coming to us. He keeps being our good shepherd leading us beside quiet waters. And at the same time Jesus wants to wade through some deep waters with us. He wants to walk through the darkness of our souls with us so that we can enter into his light and life and joy. That kind of total transformation of the soul isn't easy. It isn't quick but that is why Jesus keeps coming and keeps calling out. That is why he keeps meeting us with the invitation to follow him through the valley of the shadow of death into the joy of his resurrection life. ***Are you up for the trip?***

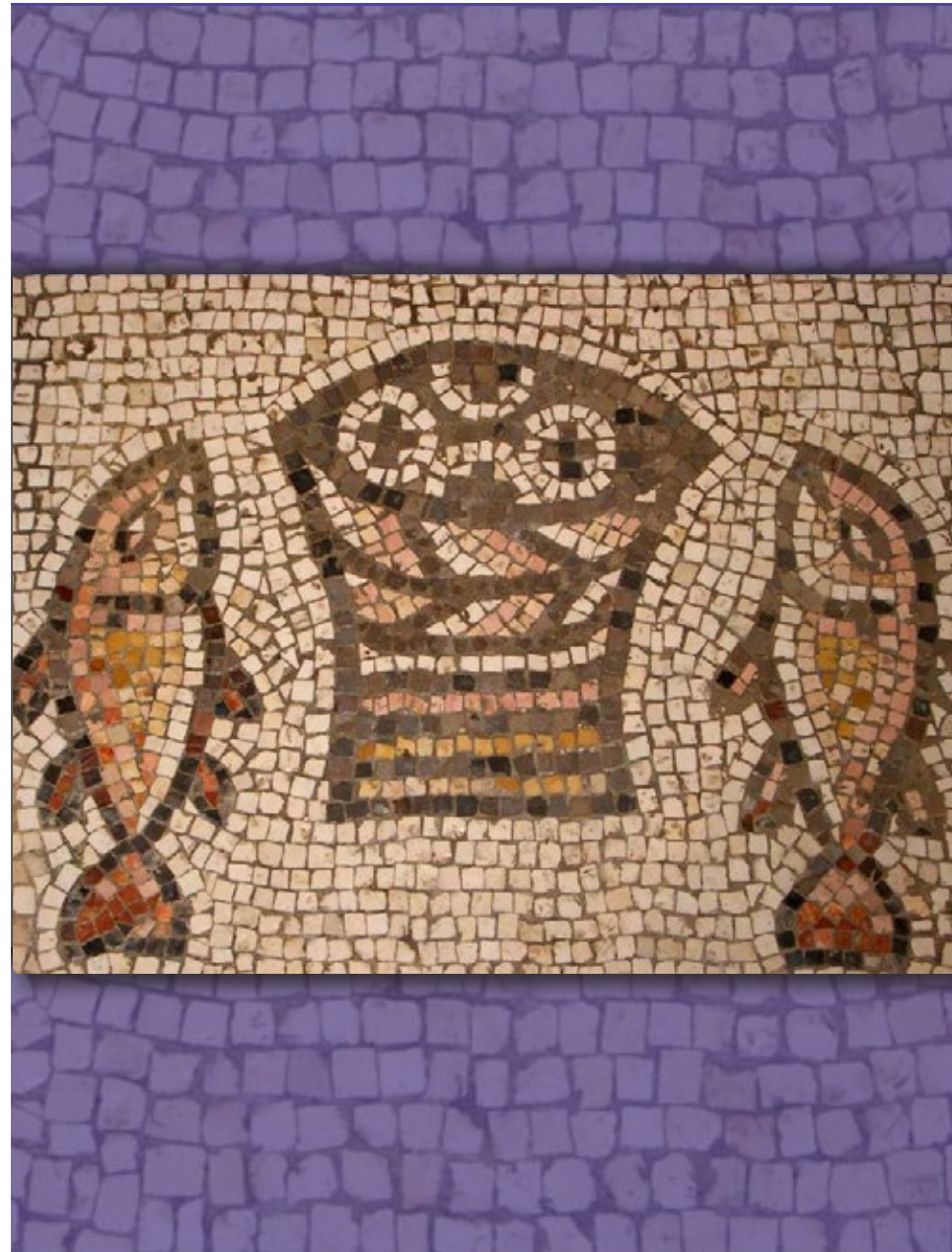
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April 15, 2018

Welcome!

We are grateful that you joined us today for worship and would love to keep in touch. We have a nursery for infants and toddlers. After the Passing of the Peace, Pre-K through 2nd Grade continue to worship upstairs. After the service, please join us downstairs for refreshments provided by our Patience Group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Refreshments for next Sunday:

Kindness Group. Contact Sherry Abernethy 898-3813

After the service: Part of worshipping the Father and being a disciple of Jesus is praying. We pray together in worship and would be honored to pray with you after worship. If you are in a particular struggle or have a particular joy, come to the back of the church under the window with the dove. Together in the power of the Spirit we can boldly approach the throne of grace.

Feeding Avery Families Schedule:

- Packing: April 20 @ 8:30 a.m.
- Truck: April 26 @ 10 a.m.
- Distribution: April 27 @ 8:00 a.m.

Email address updates:

- Gene and Gayle Smith
genegaylesmith@gmail.com
- John and Kay Cox
6963gracieuse@atmc.net

Prayer of Preparation

God of life,
we praise you for the miracle
of Easter. We pray for great
joy for ourselves and for all
who come to worship today to
celebrate Jesus’ resurrection.
We pray especially for those
who will join us for worship
and whose lives are filled with
pain, loss, or deep sadness.
May they sense how the
resurrection is a source of
great hope. Amen.

Personal thoughts
and prayer reminders

Service for the Lord’s Day — 15 April 2018

Greeting

Leader: Christ is Risen!

All: He is Risen Indeed!

Welcome & Announcements

- * Call to Worship ~1 Peter 1:3

Leader: This is the good news—the grave is empty; Christ is risen.

All: Hallelujah!

Leader: This is the good news—the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never put it out.

All: Hallelujah!

Leader: This is the good news—once we were no people; now
we are God’s people.

All: Hallelujah! Christ is our peace, the indestructible peace
we now share with each other. Hallelujah!

- * Opening Hymn #207 We Have Come to Join in Worship
- * Opening Prayer
- * Hymn of Praise #635 In the Garden
- * Confession

Leader: If, at times, we deny you, God forgive. When the risks of
discipleship are high, and we are nowhere to be found:

All: God forgive.

Leader: When we wash our hands of responsibility:

All: God forgive.

Leader: When we cast our lot with powerful oppressors and seek to buy
freedom with silver:

All: God forgive.

Leader: When fear keeps us from witnessing to your truth, or prejudice
keeps us from believing it:

All: God forgive.

In the bright light of Easter morning, O God, our sin is
exposed, and your grace is revealed. Tender God, raise
us in your love so that, with joy, we may witness to your
awesome deeds, in the name of Jesus, the risen one. Amen.

- * Assurance of Pardon ~1 Corinthians 15:54-57, NRSV

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be
to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- * The Gloria Patri and Passing the Peace

Children's Sermon

Prayers of the People

Scripture and Sermon

John 21
A Ruthlessly Personal Savior

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Leader: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Offering and Offertory

- * Affirmation of Faith 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance:
that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he
was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scrip-
tures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the
Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the broth-
ers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though
some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then
to all the apostles.

- * Hymn of Dedication #690 He Leadeth Me

- * Benediction