

## “I Know that My Redeemer Liveth”

Matthew 28: 1-10; Revelation 19: 1, 5-7. 16

Here we are on Easter morning, celebrating the resurrection story of our Lord and Savior, who leaves the tomb, who steps out of the darkness, who overcomes death, and most importantly who brings us new life. The story of the resurrection is a great story for all times but even we as believers will admit that it can seem a little unbelievable and outrageous. We know that our story of faith, the Story of the resurrection defies logic and reason. We know that It is a story that breaks all the scientific rules. We know that It is a story that overcomes the natural laws of this world and brings forth the Kingdom of God.

We know that It is a story that by all logical and worldly accounts would be called crazy and anyone who claims to hold this story to be true may be seen as just as foolish and as crazy as the story.

But as Christians, as believers, as people of God, we know something that this world does not know. We know more than just the story. We know the Risen Lord. We know that our Redeemer lives.

We know that this unbelievable, outrageous story of the resurrection, in all its foolishness, in all its illogical components, in all its crazy dramatic details, is a story about how much God loves us. It is a story about how far our God will go for

us. It is a story about how God is in control, not death, not darkness, not even this world. It is a story about the promises of our Redeemer who brings us healing and wholeness as the people of God.

This crazy, illogical, wonderful story that we claim as Our story is about the hope of God giving comfort to all of God's children, is about the love of God, transforming, inspiring and shaping the people of God, is about us as believers claiming and living out the amazing knowledge that on this Easter morning and every morning , our Redeemer lives! Thanks be to God!

Our Redeemer lives! And we know this to be true, regardless of what the world says, not just because we have seen the empty tomb, not just because someone told us the good news. We know this wonderful illogical knowledge that our Redeemer lives because we have encountered the Risen Christ!

He has met us on our journeys. He has touched our lives. He has transformed our hearts just like he did on that first Easter morning when he greeted the women at the tomb, just like he did on that first Easter day when he appeared to the disciples in that upper room.

Jesus Christ, the risen Lord, has met us on our journeys and has beckoned us home. He has met us where we are as his very own. and the wonderful thing about these encounters with the Risen Christ is that he does not wait for us to find him. No, the Risen Christ finds us. He lifts us out of the darkness. He brings us in to the

light of his promises. He foolishly and wonderfully throws open his arms and runs to meet us on our journeys of life. He does not wait for us to come to him but meets us and welcomes us to experience the amazing promises of the resurrection.

This morning we celebrate the crazy wonderful story of the resurrection because this day and all days we gladly proclaim that our Redeemer lives. We know he lives because we have experience the resurrection to the fullest. We have experienced and encountered the risen Lord with our very beings and we will never be the same.

As we gather this morning, we know that our Redeemer lives because we have experienced the resurrection with all of our senses. We have tasted the goodness of the Lord. We have heard the angel choruses singing Hallelujah. We have seen the glory of the Lord shining down. We have touched the hand of the Lord as he welcomed us home. We have even smelled the resurrection. We have smelled the gift of new life through the blossoming of the flowers, through the budding of the trees. We have smelled the sense of decay being overtaken by the smell of fresh fragrances bringing forth promises new life until all we can smell is refreshing smells of hope.

We have experienced the Risen Lord and we gladly proclaim that he lives, crazy as it may sound, and regardless of what this world says. We know that Our Redeemer lives.

Because only a God as wonderfully foolish as our God would give such an extravagant gift as God's only son for the sake of God's people. Because only a God as wonderfully generous as our God would give such a gift as unconditional grace to God's people. Because only a God as wonderfully loving as our God would give such a blessing as new life to God's people.

The world may say our story is crazy but it is our story. And the funny thing is that we as Christians, as believers will be the first to admit that our story is a crazy foolish story. We know this. It's not a big deal for us to admit this because we understand that we follow a living Savior who turned the world upside down, who made the weak strong and the strong weak. We follow a living Savior who showed his might and power by dying on a cross. We follow a living Savior who showed his strength by giving up his life for us. We follow a living Savior who foolishly and wonderfully came to be among God's people and bring us peace through love and mercy.

it is through this wonderfully foolish story that we've experience the blessing of God's love, that we've experienced the welcoming of God's embrace, that we've experienced the life-giving grace of God in our lives.

Yes, we will admit that our story is crazy and foolish but it is a story that we know is true because we can say with all confidence to the world, that the one it tried to quiet and crucify, lives as our loving Redeeming Savior.

We know that this wonderfully foolish story of the resurrection is true because we have experience and have been transformed by how foolishly, how crazy, how completely, how unconditionally, how fully God loves us and how that wonderful generous love has freed us to a life beyond our imagination.

Yes we will admit that our story is crazy but we know something that this world does not know. We know that our Redeemer lives.

We understand that when this world hears this wonderfully foolish story about Jesus' resurrection, it only sees that the authors of the four gospels couldn't agree on the details, it only sees an attempt to explain away the death of a prophet, it only understands that it cannot logically or scientifically happen.

When the world hears this story of the resurrection, it only sees and hears confusing details, ramblings of scared women, and foolish excuses for the disciples' behavior.

But as people of God, as people of faith, as people of the resurrection, we know that there is more to the story than mixed up details and drama. There is love. There is grace. There is mercy.

As people of the resurrection, when we hear this wonderfully foolish, illogical, dramatic story, we hear the angels' chorus singing Hallelujah. We see the heavens open up and the glory of the Lord shining all around us. When we experience and live out this story, this outrageous, unbelievable story, we

experience the transforming and life giving love of a God that loved us so much that God gave God's only Son to give us eternal life.

As believers, We understand that when we hear this story, this crazy wonderfully foolish story, it is more than just one instant in time, it is more than just one Easter morning. It is about the love of God which is steadfast and for all generations. It is about the mystery of God which beckons to us and invites to the table. It is about the grace of God that changes, transforms, renews and calls us out to share the Good News with all of God's creation. It is about claiming and living out the wonderful knowledge that our Redeemer lives!

This wonderful story is about embracing the understanding that we have met the Risen Savior and we will never be the same. Thanks be to God!