

“GOD ON THE MOVE”
“God Moves... Out of the Tomb”

God continues to be on the move. Now that the forty days of lent is over, we begin the Celebration of Easter. For fifty days, we celebrate and give thanks that Christ is on the move out of the tomb and into the world. Easter ends with Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit. During these Easter days, our gospels readings will mostly focus on the lives that are changed because they experienced the resurrected Jesus. They became witnesses to the new life Christ offers. Christ moves us through all kinds of events and gives us new opportunities. Easter is more than a day, it is a gift and a way of life. Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, Indeed!!! Happy Easter! ---Pastor Cindy

We traveled 1,982 miles this past week! Throughout “God on the Move”, we’ve traveled a grand total of 9,675 miles, more than enough to reach our destination of Jerusalem by Easter Sunday. Good team work! We hope you will continue moving throughout Easter Tide as we celebrate our Risen Lord and begin our next sermon series, “Jesus on the Move” -- Pastor Cindy and Pastor Rebecca

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon: **“God Moves... Out of the Tomb”**

Daily prayer: *God of wonders, we who have been caught up in the resurrected life of Christ, pray that we may share in his mission, finding the right words and deeds to express our faith, and sharing that same love with which he has loved us. May we be on the move with Christ into the world to share your love and grace. We pray in the name of Jesus our resurrected Lord and Savior. Amen.*

This week’s sermon may be viewed at <http://sundaystreams.com/go/firstwichita>

Study Guide

Monday, April 22, 2019 Luke 24: 1-8

“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.” Each year we must wonder why we seek the living among the dead. God is on the move, and hatred, bigotry, injustice or evil cannot stop the mighty movement of God in Jesus the Christ. I imagine, like the disciples of old, we can become immune to where God is moving and in what ways He is moving. We can become tired, grief stricken and uncertain. We visit the places of the dead and are asked, what you doing? Why are you here? *Where might we look for Jesus among the living? Where is Christ moving today in your life and in the lives of those around you?*

Tuesday, April 23, 2019 Luke 24: 9-12

As soon as the women returned to the others they shared everything. No one believed them. Their words struck the apostles as “nonsense” in one translation and in another, their words “seemed to them an idle tale.” Peter did go and look and was amazed, but at what? If the women were not believed, then what was amazing about an empty tomb? Perhaps Peter could not quite grasp how God was moving in this new way and through the witness of the women. *Where do you find it hard to believe that God is moving and will be bringing new life? Which witnesses do you question and why?*

Wednesday, April 24, 2019 Acts 10: 34—36

Peter preached this message after he had a vision of eating unclean food. God was leading him to reach out beyond who he thought belonged among the believers. This was absolutely a game changer for the early church. Instead of Jesus being a savior for just the Jewish people, God shows “no partiality.” New life, and new hope are a gift for everyone, everywhere. This is the message the church is called to embrace. It started with the empty tomb. The resurrection of Jesus was the beginning of a whole new way of living and believing. *In what ways does Peter’s affirmation strengthen your faith to follow wherever the risen Christ is moving? Where do you see Christ moving in your life?*

Thursday, April 25, 2019 Acts 10: 37-43

Peter told the story of Jesus in just a few verses. Jesus was baptized, blessed by the Holy Spirit with power, moved throughout Judea healing and doing good works. Jesus was arrested, crucified and resurrected. This is the basics of our faith. In the Communion liturgy we proclaim: “*Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again.*” Everyone who experienced the resurrected Christ was changed and continue to be changed. Then, in turn the believers change the lives of others. Peter witnesses to this. God is on the move and Christ is on the move changing how the community of faith is called to live. *How do you think the church of the twenty first century can find that same level of power and wonder and faith? How can our community of faith be on the move with Christ in our part of the world?*

Friday, April 26, 2019 Luke 24: 1-12

“Remember what he told you.” The women remembered and couldn’t wait to share and witness to Christ’s movement from death to life! Even though they were not believed, it did not stop these women from witnessing. God moves through the most improbable witnesses and proclaims the resurrection of Jesus to all who are open to hearing and experiencing the new life offered in Christ. God is moving and inviting new people from generation to generation. Like Peter notes in Acts, “*God doesn’t show partiality,*” in fact God is constantly challenging each generation to see the diversity of God’s people. *How will you be on the move with God the next few days? How will offers see the truth of Christ’s resurrection in your life? Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed!*