

“JESUS ON THE MOVE”
“Jesus Moves through Following”

We are an Easter people! While Lent is forty days, the Celebration of Easter is fifty days ending with Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Easter is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus and of the power of Christ to change and transform the world through his followers. Our Easter sermon series encourages us to continue to be on the move, “*Jesus on the Move: Offering New Life.*” The disciples had to see Jesus. They had to see how Jesus moves out of the tomb and back into their lives. This Sunday we are celebrating our graduates and scholarship recipients. Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, Indeed! Pastor Cindy

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon: **“Jesus Moves through Following”**

Daily prayer:

O Wisdom on High, by you the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly. Grant us, in all doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that we may be saved from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen. (from the Book of Common Prayer)

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

Study Guide

Monday, May 20, 2019 Psalm 119: 1-3

These verses were not read in worship Sunday. When the Psalmist was writing, scripture would have included the Torah (the first five books of Hebrew Scripture) and perhaps some of the prophets and writings. This psalm was a teaching psalm. It is an “acrostic” poem and has twenty two stanzas each beginning with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. This poem/psalm was used to teach Hebrew letters as well as encouraging a commitment to the law and the faith. The name of God appears 24 times and almost every verse has a word that is synonymous with the Torah or the law. The prayer of this psalm is to keep God’s word first and foremost in the life of the psalmist. Why? Because when we walk in the way of God we are wise, we have understanding and we keep from doing evil. We give Bibles to our children (usually in third grade) and our confirmation students because we want them to begin at a young age learning and studying and meditating on this Word that has been passed down to us. Today, people often read the bible on their phone or tablets or computers. That doesn’t discount the need for a physical book. One is not better than the other, both can invite us into a deeper relationship with God. *Today, write down your favorite verse and meditate on it. Then, say a prayer for all who study and desire to learn how to be more faithful to God.*

Tuesday, May 21, 2019 Psalm 119: 9-11

The psalmist and early biblical writers were clear; one of the best ways to help young people grow into being the people God created them to be was to teach the Law, the Word or what we call scripture. Keeping the word of God “close in one’s heart” allows the grace and wisdom of God to become evident in one’s life. As we celebrate with all those who graduate, we pray for God’s grace and love for them. We pray for wisdom to become part of their thinking process. We pray for discernment in decision making. *How does your study of scripture help you discern your actions? How does wisdom guide you and direct you?*

Wednesday, May 22, 2019 Psalm 119: 12-16

These verses speak to the psalmist study of scripture. The writer longs to know the Law in order to delight in the faith that has been given. We don’t often hear people talk about “delighting” in scripture or saying that they rejoice over God’s word more than great wealth. Yet, the wisdom contained in scripture has guided and directed the people of God for thousands of years. It is this deep longing to know God and to love God and follow where God leads that helps us dig deep into God’s word. *Today, dig deeper into God’s word. Read more of this Psalm or all of it and see what God is saying to you and where God is directing your life.*

Thursday, May 23, 2019 John 10: 22-25

Jesus is in Jerusalem and is being pushed by those who oppose his ministry and his understanding of scripture. Jesus has been healing and teaching and the powers that be were uncomfortable with what he was doing. In the temple, the leadership was pushing Jesus to say whether or not he was the Messiah. Isn’t it interesting that they would ask that question so blatantly? Of course it didn’t really matter what the answer was, it would be used against Jesus and his ministry. As Jesus points out, they don’t believe him anyway. His actions point to what he believes and to the purpose of his ministry. *As we are called to follow Jesus and to be on the move with Jesus, how do your actions reflect your faith? What do your actions say about your faith in Christ?*

Friday, May 24, 2019 John 10: 25-30

Jesus states, “My sheep listen to my voice and follow me.” Sheep do not respond to just anyone’s voice, it has to be the voice of the shepherd they trust. Scripture is used to help us learn to discern the voice of Christ. *Will our words and actions point to Jesus who calls us to love another? Will our words and actions point to the wisdom of God’s love and grace in the world?* Like the psalmist, the community of faith prays that our graduates listen to the voice of Christ that they may be on the move with Jesus and sharing his love and grace to all the world.