

Easter Sunday - April 17

*“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.” The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Psalm 46:10-11 (NRSV)*

Psalm 46:10 says, “Be still, and know that I am God.” While that is one of my favorite scripture passages, I am not sure that is the passage that would typically come to mind on Easter Sunday. It seems to be much more fitting for Advent or Lent. It seems to make sense to “be still” during these times of reflection and preparation. Even Christmas has beloved songs like *Silent Night* that speak to stillness. Easter, however, is a day filled with celebration. It is a day where we rejoice as we proclaim “Hallelujah! Christ is risen.” However, I wonder if in the midst of all the noise and celebration, we might need this reminder even more—“Be still, and know that I am God.”

I don’t know about you, but the times when I have felt God most are not in the moments of celebration but in the moments of stillness. While I trust God is there on the mountain top, I seem to experience God most in the valleys. It is in those times when I am reminded of my need for and dependence upon God. It is in those moments when I am not sure that I can make it on my own. It is in those moments where I need to be reminded “God is with us.”

Easter certainly isn’t a day of stillness, but Easter is a day where we discover how it is that we can find peace and rejoice even in the midst of the valley. Easter is the day that provides us with the hope that the valley will never have the final word. The empty tomb is a reminder for us that death will never have the final word. The worst things are never the last things. There is hope!

So, today, in the midst of the hallelujahs, take time to reflect. Reflect on the empty tomb. It is a quiet place. Jesus is no longer there. Take time to be still, knowing that God is with us... knowing that Jesus has conquered the grave... knowing that there is indeed hope! That is the reason we rejoice. It is easy to get so caught up in the celebration that we can actually forget to be still and experience the truth that we are celebrating. Let’s not make that mistake this year, for we know that this truth has the power to change our lives and change our world!

Pastor Justin

Prayer: God of Hope and Resurrection, may Your empty tomb remind us that You are with us always. Death could not hold You. Strengthen us with Your resurrection power that throughout all of our lives—through the hills and the valleys—we may continue to feel Your presence as we grow together in our faith to share Your love and change our world. Amen.