In John’s Gospel chapter 20:1 – 18, the gospel text set aside for this year’s Easter Sunday service, we hear again the story of Mary running from the empty tomb to let the disciples who were hiding from the danger they felt, know, “they have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” So Peter and another disciple came out of their hiding place and sprinted to the place where Jesus was buried and discovered it was as Mary had reported.

The verse that I would like to focus on with you is verse 10 which says, “Then the disciples went back to their homes.” I’m intrigued by this verse because isn’t that where Easter really takes place? Easter is best lived at home.

We decorate the holiday with chocolate bunnies, jellybeans, colorful baskets filled with crunchy paper and goodies, we paint Easter eggs and sometimes we adorn ourselves and our children with a special dress or fancy new shirt and sparkling shoes. We often decorate our church services with special music and extra flowers on the altar, sometimes we bring out more candles, the finest communion vessels and of course our most precious linens. All of this is good because it does remind us of the amazing marvel of this holy occasion. And in the midst of all of our celebration and decorations I think it’s important for us to recognize how the first followers of Jesus responded to the news of the empty tomb.

They went back to their homes. But more than going back to their homes they went back with a knowledge that everything had changed. And I think they went back home because for them the gospel starts at home. Home may be the place where it is most important for us to live out the gospel. I wonder if we are truly at home with Easter? I wonder if we are at home with the powerful story of the resurrection? Home it seems to me is where we are invited to go with the knowledge of the amazing grace of the risen Christ.

Can we be at home wherever we are? Can we be at home in all those familiar places where we spend our days? Like those first followers of Jesus let us also be at home with the knowledge of the risen Christ and the empty tomb when we are not only in our homes, but when we are at the office, or working at the shop, or in our church. Our Lord is in all of these places and he is especially present there when we allow him to make his home in us.

So as we leave Lent behind and move into the season of Easter please pray with me that we will know the good news of our Lord’s resurrection in all the places where we find ourselves at home.

+John

Home is where Jesus is

1 The Spirit of Wyoming