

**Imagine! DO justice, LOVE mercy, WALK humbly with our God**

**Inspirit Bible Discussion Materials**

**For Sunday, April 27, 2025**

Zoom link at thepalms.org and go here:

<https://thepalms.org/bridges/>

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### LAST SUNDAY

**An incredible Holy Week at The Church of the Palms.**

**Maundy Thursday: TCOTP hosted and Pastor Paul preached. He jingled a bag of coins and told us about the famous Last Supper painting by DaVinci.**

Do we have our enemies faces painted as Judas? We will get painters block if we hold onto the anger/revenge/hatred. We need to forgive and let go.

**Good Friday: We opened the newly renovated chapel for a service. Pastor Jim and team lead with prayers and singing and reflections. Unfortunately, this service was not taped. The water fountain added to the silent meditations.**

Beautiful reflections and Pastor Jim led us down the path of Calgary. He brought up a bunch of “F” words but not the ones you think. These were to recall us about our part in the death of Jesus and how we need to forget/let go and forgive. See a pattern here from our preachers?

**Easter Sunday 1.0 at 8am: Beautiful outdoor setting. Birds chirping and flying about. Water fountain. Pastors Jim and Paul with full music. Pastor Jim preached from Isaiah 65.**

Behold, I am creating a new heaven and a new earth. The vision of the New Earth and the New Creation is that the wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent’s food.

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**Easter Sunday 2.0: Indoors with full choir and full church. Pastor Paul preached from John 20:1-18. We are to be stone rollers.**

Richard Rohr quote: “Light isn’t so much what we directly see as that by which we see everything else.”

The feet that been walking the path of love had been pierced. The hands that healed had been stilled. Noble aspirations had been spiked into Friday’s cross.

The women go the tomb not out of hope but out of devotion and duty.

What does a dead man give? Nothing

We are called to love expecting nothing in return. To do the act that is noble and true. A life of servitude is the call of do-scipling.

What if in frustration the women turned to one another on that lonely path to the tomb they explained why were they doing this?! I’m tired of being the only one that cares.

We know that the women did not stop. Grief blinded them to God’s presence because they were not alone. Even if they felt all alone.

God walked every lonely painful step with the women. But God had a surprise waiting for them.

Pastor Paul sees some thing new in the story. For whom was the stone rolled away? We’d say it for Jesus. Did the stone have to be removed in order for Jesus

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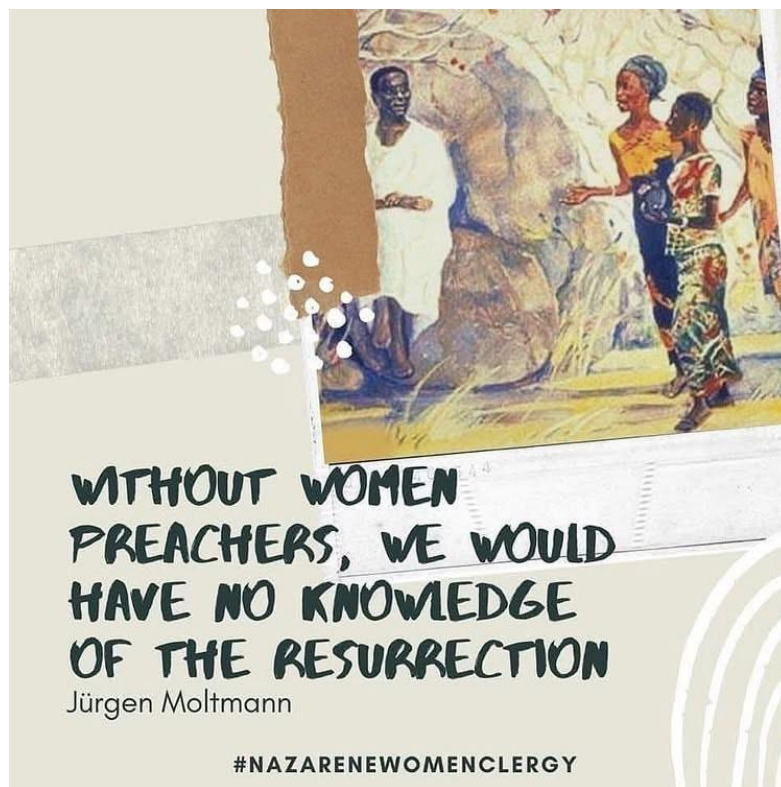
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to leave the tomb? The text gives the impression that Jesus was already out of the tomb before the stone was moved. That's new information for me to ponder.

For whom was the stone moved? Matthew has an angel reporting come and see the empty tomb to the women.



Jesus meets Mary where she is at! Just when you think all hope is gone and the dark road will never be seen again, God flashes new life, new creation, new hope, all things are to be new.

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What is the take home message? DON'T GIVE UP?!

Is your trail up the mountain dark DON'T SIT and the road long DON'T STOP.

Is the night full of shadows? DON'T QUIT

God is present! Present with a friend. It's our service to roll away the objects that block. It's going to take every one of us to come together as a society to move the obstacles and stones that block our way.

Imagine that God is moving the obstacle/stone that prevents us from seeing in/seeing the reality of what we, as church, can do for those most in need.

God moves the stones that inhibit us and prevent us from living the life we are called to live.

God is present. God cares. God removes the obstacles/stones. God surprises us.

We may not be able to overtake the Empire but I will be damned if I will allow the Empire to take over me!!

God removes all obstacles so that we can see the Risen Love of our Lives

**What did Pastor Paul say that impacted you?**

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**NEXT SUNDAY**

**Next Sunday is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter. Creation Justice Sunday.**

Easter Season gives us rich texts. Let's explore the Acts. Luke reports that these are not the same guys who once had been hiding in fear.

**Other Christian churches will be reading the following Scriptures:**

Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118: 14-20 or Psalm 150; Revelations 1:4-8; John 20:19-31.