

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

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Association Minister Message

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TRANSFORMATION. "It is the Lord!" (John 21:7). Kate McGahan wrote, *"The very first Easter taught us this: that life never ends and love never dies."* According to the church calendar, we are in the Easter Season. For the first disciples, Easter morning to Pentecost was filled with contradictions. For three years the disciples were in confirmation class with their teacher Jesus, and yet when Easter happened they were fearful, perplexed and hid behind locked doors. They did not fully comprehend the power of resurrection, had doubts about who Jesus was and had uncertainty about the lessons of faith Jesus taught them. Maybe they were not so different than we are today. Easter has become a day rather than a proclamation. Resurrection's power of *TRANSFORMATION* eludes us. We were not there and wonder how it happened, wanting to know the details and proof of resurrection. Even the lessons of faith that Jesus taught His followers seem too idealistic or not applicable in present times.

Jesus appears three times to the first disciples in John 21. Jesus meets them and Peter decides to go fishing. Jesus meets them again and their concern is that they caught no fish. Jesus tells them to cast their net on the right side, the opposite of what they had done and they caught so many fish the net was ready to burst. Third time Jesus prepares a breakfast for them, breaks bread and gives them fish, reminiscent of the Last Supper. Three clues and no connection. Finally, Jesus asks Peter three times if he loved him. It is a reminder of Peter denying Jesus three times at the crucifixion. Jesus then says, *"Feed my lambs...feed my sheep"* (twice).

Resurrection calls us into *"mission-action"* fulfilling the words of Isaiah, *"The Spirit of God is upon me, because God has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and freedom to those who are bound."* (Isaiah 61). Resurrection is powerful, miraculous, mysterious, frightening and *TRANSFORMATIONAL*. Resurrection becomes mission and ministry in actions of care and compassion, love and living, promises fulfilled and unlimited possibilities of forgiveness, hope as agents of peace and goodwill. *"It is the Lord!"* in us and through us *TRANSFORMING* the world and our lives. *BLESSING ALWAYS.*