

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

EASTER SUNDAY 2025

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“Easter Lesson: Just Love”

Based on Isaiah 65:17-19 and The Matrix Revolutions (2003)

You cannot defeat love.
It's as simple as that.
The world may grow dark, the path unclear.
Voices may rise up that oppose much that is good and just.
Some will plot and scheme; others caught up in greed and power.

But false power is a tower like Babel, which only looks secure from the surface but is weak and vulnerable at its core. And in time, that power will crumble and fall with a mighty crash, forever destroyed. Because they did not build their worldly kingdom, nor build themselves with love.

*Kings wear robes, of gold and velvet
Soon their glory, fades away
~The Robe of Calvary*

I spoke briefly on Good Friday of a scene in our final Lenten Movie Series, The Matrix Revolutions. As the evil villain questions the hero's motivation to continue to fight what appears to be a losing battle, the hero gets up

in one final act and wins the battle not with strength or violence but with words, “I keep going...because I choose to.”

Moments later, the villain, a superior form of advanced artificial intelligence self-destructs, as it does not know how to process the concept of ‘sacrificial love.’ The hero has won. The world is saved.

The movie is a fantasy.
Our faith is not.
Yet the principle rings true.

Ø The Prophet Isaiah created a word picture for the people of his day, imagining a New Jerusalem, a new, wholesome, perfect place, where people could live together in harmony and for common purpose.

Ø The people along that path to Jerusalem that fateful Palm Sunday thought much the same thing. Jesus was coming into the Holy City to throw out the government, cast aside the powers of the day and rebuild a city of hope and love and joy. Look how that turned out.

Ø We today, talk of a similar dream, of lifting the Christian world into the light of day once again, to rebuild, to create our New Jerusalem.

Yet, look at all our differing denominations. Look at our global history. We have not learned our lessons well.

But friends, the reality is:

- There will always be greed in our world.
- There will always be power struggles and the need by some to be at the top of the heap.
- There will always be those swayed by dollar signs or credentials.
- There will always be injustice somewhere, famine, poverty, the need for health reforms, and care required for the less fortunate, and compassion for those sick or dying.

Because of our human condition and our evolving planet, somewhere in this world, these problems will exist. We will never solve them all.

But Jesus knew this also.

- Jesus never asked His followers to change the world through upheaval of governments or revolution or bloodshed.
- Jesus asked His followers to change the world by changing themselves.
- Jesus asked His followers

to change the world by giving the world, love; more love.

- This "New Jerusalem" was not a place, or even a vision. It was love.

*But the men who crucified him
Were forgiven, by his love
~The Robe of Calvary*

- The upheaval was the recognition of one's self as beautiful, worthy and holy in God's eyes.

- The revolution was recognizing the person in front of you was also, beautiful, worthy and holy in God's eyes.

- The challenge by Jesus, was to respond with love, always, some face of love; not anger, or harsh words, or vengeful actions.

These are the ideas that got Christ killed. Because by lifting these ideas up, Christ reflected upon those in leadership, just how little they were living up to their possibilities and potential. And that cut was so deep and His continued presence in their midst like salt poured on their weaknesses. So they destroyed Him, hoping to never face themselves again.

Christ's response to all this scheming? Love.
And in that love. Resurrection.

Resurrection is more than those miraculous moments in the garden that first Easter Sunday. Resurrection is each and every time you or I

respond in love to the world around us.

- Love is not a weakness.
- Love does not mean turning a blind eye or saying nothing when something needs to be seen or said.
- Love is not compromising your values or your ethical line in the sand.

- Love is seeing the world through the eyes of Christ.

- Love is doing the right thing, at the right moment in time, regardless of the critics.

- Love is letting your heart speak first and then asking your mind how to accomplish what the heart needs.

- Love is leaning into God on the dark days and being there for someone else to lean onto on the good days.

- Love is like a carefully cut diamond, with so many facets, you are continuously surprised to see it from another angle.

And each and every time you answer the calls of the world in some form of love, you have found a moment of resurrection: a moment when you inch a little closer to the Saviour, and His plan for the world inched a little closer to completion.

*Ev'ry morning is Easter
morning
from now on!
Ev'ry day's resurrection day,
the past is over and gone!*

*Goodbye guilt, goodbye fear,
good riddance!*

Hello Lord, Hello sun!

I am one of the Easter People!

My new life has begun!

~Donald Marsh

Resurrection Day is here.

He is risen!

He is risen indeed.