



MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

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www.mountainstreamchurch.com

LOCKED IN BECAUSE OF FEAR

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



John 20:19

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

Terror overwhelmed the disciples. The unthinkable had happened before their very eyes. Jesus had been arrested, falsely tried, and crucified. The Jewish religiopolitical machinery had managed to pressure even Pilate the Roman govern to bend to their will and condemn Jesus even though he repeatedly declared Him innocent. If they could wield such power, where would they stop? Moreover, Jesus' death provoked deeper questions. How could He be the Messiah? They had given not just their time,

but themselves to Him. They had left everything to follow Him. Now He was dead. Had they believed a lie? And just that morning Jesus' body had gone missing despite the presence of a Roman guard at the sealed tomb. They were sure they would be blamed for this development. They would be hunted and executed. In terror, they locked themselves in, not knowing what else to do.

Suddenly, Jesus – alive and looking – stood in their midst! Mary Magdalene's claim that she had seen Him that day and that He had spoken to her was not the figment of a fevered mind. Jesus was actually alive! He had risen from the dead!

"Peace be with you," Jesus declared to them. This was a call to replace their doubt with confidence. Their fear with peace. Jesus was alive and all was well. Their faith in Him was not misguided after all. They could begin to pick up the pieces and return to the grand mission that He had entrusted

to them.

As we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are reminded that although life goes off the rails sometimes, all is not lost. Despite our perception of the situation and our tendency to surrender to fear, God is not thwarted. He is still working out His plan. He will win. And we will triumph too as we choose to trust in Him.

Are you currently locked in because of fear or failure? Does life seem completely out of control? Look to our Risen Lord and remember that, in Him, there is always hope. Return to life fully depending on the Resurrection power of Christ to sustain you. You will not be disappointed.

God bless you,

Pastor James

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CORPORATE PRAYER
TUE @ 7 PM

APR 11

Join us via Zoom video
Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP
FRI @ 6:45 PM

APR 14

In-person at church.
For teens ages 13 and over

EVENING SERVICE
1st & 3rd
SUN @ 6 PM

APR 16

Join us in-person at church

KIDZONE & NURSERY
SUN @ 11 AM

APR 16

These ministries are available every Sunday during the morning service
Kidzone for ages 6-12 yrs. old.

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUN @ 11 AM

APR 16

In-person service and Livestreaming on Facebook, Youtube and our webpage.

- The Church's Quarterly Members Meeting will be Sunday following the Morning Service.
- Save the date: Vacation Bible School will be from July 17-21. Be praying how God might use you in this ministry.
- Middle Smithfield Township Street Clean-up. Join us Saturday April 22 as we help our township pick up our streets. Contact Tom for details.
- The Pregnancy Resource Center's Fundraising Banquet is May 11 @ Camelback Resort. Contact Lori for more details.
- Clarks Summit University's Lyfe Women's Conference is June 2-3. Contact Sherrill or Becky for more information.
- Join us on 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 3:15 at the Garden at Stroud as we sing and share the gospel with the residents. Contact Tom for more information.
- Bible Reading plans for 2023 are available at the Information Center. Also, read Pastor Jimmie's daily blog on the readings via the link on our website.

QUICK TIPS ON WAYS TO GIVE YOUR OFFERING

Traditional during the Sunday morning service, with a check by mail or through our secured website. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!