



April 6th, 2009

Minister's Message

There is a tremendous amount of self-pity in our culture right now. Mostly we pity ourselves and our economic prospects. There is fear about the future. Is anyone else longing for some good news and an antidote to the self-pity and fear? Does faith have anything to offer us?

Faith is the human response to God, believing and trusting in Someone you cannot really see or know for sure is there. Faith acts upon hope that the God who made us cares for us and will help us. Faith is acting upon a conviction about God's power in Jesus that in whatever we attempt we will not be left alone and without grace. Faith is an assurance that comes from a perspective that Christ will work through us to accomplish great—even impossible—things. Faith is the trigger that unleashes the incredible power of God to do *impossible* things. Jesus, stood under a mountain when he told his disciples that even mustard-seed-sized faith can move things as big and as immovable as this mountain. It was hyperbole, in one sense. But God is bigger than the mountainous problems we face and fear.

In any human endeavor the greatest challenge is to get people not only to work together but actually to move in a purposeful way, at times against great odds. How, for example, did Moses get the fleeing Israelites to take the first step into the sea bed? They were paralyzed by fear, hearing the hoof beats of the pharaoh's army coming behind them, trapped with the sea before them. They saw the waters part, but how could they trust they would stay parted? How do you get people to move mountains when each must be thinking, "*This is impossible!*" How do you imbue each person's contribution with the importance, meaning and purpose we all must feel to engage in mountain moving? A leader might say, "There are lots of us and we can do it!" But somehow before mountains, that seems like naïve cheerleading, too little for too great a task. There has to be belief—*faith!*—that we can do what is asked and that Someone bigger than we will help us. This is what we need in our culture and our church right now. We can go through all the motions but if we don't believe our shovelfuls are sufficient, what will we accomplish?

You may remember the story in Mark about the storm at sea. The disciples were afraid, rowing like crazy but unable to save themselves. They were desperate! Jesus was sleeping the stern and finally someone woke him up and said, "Lord, don't you care we are about to drown?" In one sense Jesus is always with the church but sometimes we try to do it without him and forget him. Perhaps we overlook him in our busy-ness. In the Gospel, when they spoke to him, he got up and calmed the sea. He arrived, gave them faith and unleashed the power of God to save them. I wonder if one of our problems right now at this moment in our culture and church is that we have forgotten Jesus? Isn't it time to call to him, get our faith back in shape and stop feeling sorry for ourselves? We do face a mountain or two of problems. But don't you think he is up to moving them? I think he is.

The stories of Holy Week ought to remind us what courage, faith, and God can do in impossible situations. I hope to see you in church with more faith, less fear.

~J.D. Stinson

Easter
April 12th, 2009



8:15 Chapel Communion Service

10:15am Easter Worship
The Rev. Dr. Joseph D. Stinson, Preaching
The Rev. Cynthia F. Reynolds, Presiding

Sermon: *Unconnected and Unable to Love*
Acts 10:34-43 and John 20:1-18



Child Care for the very young provided.
11:30am Fellowship

Greeting you on Sunday morning will be confirmand Hugh Bartlett, his sponsor, John Flippin, and the Bartlett family. The head usher will be Roger Nelson, assisted by Ann Bronneck, Greg Waugh, Fred Wong and Jill Simmons. The Acolyte will be Grace O'Grady. The Videographer will be John Dobbs. Counters in the Treasurer's Office, Jim Bronneck and Roben Dunkin. The entire Flower Committee will deliver the flowers.

✦ IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ✦

- ◇ *At home:* Betty Sheppard, Jane O'Brien, Tom Horton, Lauren Smith, Ruth Payne, Lorraine Rieder, Susan Booth, Karen Augis, Phyllis Domenic, Fred Polixa, Madeline Edgar, Scott Spoerl, Robert Martin Schaeberle, Sandra Lefkovitz, Mary Keller, Bob Runge, Jim O'Brien, Bob Kansky, Barbara Underwood, and Jack Cusick.
- ◇ *In extended care facilities:* Ed Warren (Stuart FL), Lacelle Stites, Art and Marilea Schlobohm (Green Hill), Betty Bishop (Carolina Meadows), Don Olson (Job Haines), Ron Goebel (Gates Manor).

Friends & family of our church: John Kingston, Stephen Strickland, Len Calvin, Ruth Mustachio, Andrea Row, Lewis Lauring, Neil Connaghan, Maureen Sherman, Helen Brabham, George Boltnew, Georgianna Booth, Agnes Joy Busk, Anna Withington, Jill Reintjes, Dan Glitzer, Sue Potter, Merrill Roberts, Joan and Frank Lytle, Barbara Acosta, Claire Meeker Xenikakis, Thomas Bright, Jim O'Brien, Sr., Amanda Oliver, Jean and Barry Frere, Jim Marturano, Elizabeth Knox, Gilda Oliver, Pat and Betty Vigliotti, Paula Newman, Frank Pescatore, Mary Embree, Jeff Glock, Bill Phillips and UCC Missionaries Jon and Dawn Barnes in South Africa and Back Bay Mission in Biloxi. The men and women of the Armed Forces serving overseas in harm's way.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday, April 9th
Dinner, 6:15-7:30pm
Office of Tenebrae and Communion, 8pm
Good Friday, April 10th
Way to the Cross, 9:30am
Good Friday Dramatic Worship, 7:30pm
"Were You There?"
Easter, April 12th
Two Services at 8:15 and 10:15am

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Office & Pilgrim are closed on Monday, Apr. 13th.

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

Lou Ferrara of 260 Linden Ave. joined the church on Sunday. Lou, his wife Hillary and son Sam moved to Glen Ridge 5 years ago. Lou is an editor with the Associated Press and grew up in the Catholic Church in Baltimore. Lou was sponsored by his mother-in-law Jean Ost. Also re-joining the congregation was **Phyllis Domenic**, now living again in New Jersey. Phyllis' children Jody and Jeff stood with her on Sunday.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS TO STUDY MARK

Mr. Stinson announced his Wednesday class will read Mark. The class seeks new members. How about you? Join us in the library, starting April 8th, at 10am.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

There are no Church School Classes this week, but for wiggly young ones (3 yrs. To 2nd grade) there will be a craft and story time in Room 4 (across from childcare). Children should leave worship during the second hymn. Childcare will be available beginning at 10:05am. Families should pick up the children immediately after worship and come to Robinson Hall for the Easter Egg Hunt.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Following worship this Sunday all children up to 5th grade are invited to join in the egg hunt prepared by the C.I.A. (Christians in Action Youth Group). Everyone should meet in Robinson Hall to receive directions and then go to the south lawn for the hunt. Thank you C.I.A.!

CHILDCARE HELP NEEDED

A volunteer is needed for this Sunday morning, April 12th (Easter), April 19th, and April 26th. Please call Marty Lacey at (973)743-5596 if you can help. Thank you.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

At their annual meeting on April 22nd at 7:30pm, John Boyd will be speaking on the restoration process of our church's stained glass windows. All are welcome to attend.

BOOKS!!!!

There are many fine leftover books from the rummage sale available to anyone to take.

MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNER

The Ministry of Worship will serve a light dinner before the Maundy Thursday service. Please come before worship, have a bite to eat, and then come to the communion service. Choir members will be served at 6:15 prior to rehearsal at 7:00. Congregants will be served from 6:45-7:30.

Glen Ridge Congregational Church

195 Ridgewood Avenue

Glen Ridge, New Jersey 07028

Dated Material - Please Deliver by April 10, 2009

(Return Service Requested)

GIVING AT EASTER

We have 149 pledges in hand for 2009, for a total of \$443,568. Are you in a position to raise your pledge or make an extra Sunday's payment as a special Easter gift to the church?

WERE YOU THERE?

Join the YPS at 7:30pm on Good Friday for a dramatic reading and worship. 6 characters who had critical roles in the events of Good Friday tell their sides of the story, thereby helping the congregation reflect on Jesus' cross.

LIBRARY READIED FOR ART

Thank you to Walt Oliver and Michael Jorgenson for installing railings in the church library to enable us to display art in that room.

TALLMADGE CHEESE SHOP

Allin Tallmadge opened his new business in Upper Montclair. To celebrate the opening and help the church, he offers a deal for church members. Any purchase before Easter by a church member will result in a 10% discount. Bring an offering envelope from your box or a pew and he'll fill it with your savings and contribute it to the church!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, April 12th EASTER

8:15am Chapel Worship with Communion
9:15am Chancel Choir
10:15am Worship
11:30am Fellowship
11:30am YPS Coffee Sale
11:30am Egg Hunt on South Lawn

Monday, April 13th CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED PILGRIM CLOSED

7:00pm Yoga
8:00pm AP&P

Tuesday, April 14th

3:00pm Confirmation
8:00pm AA

Wednesday, April 15th

10:00am Bible Study
3:15pm Children's Choirs
4:15pm Chapel Bellringers
8:00pm MOM

Thursday, April 16th JDS/USN NO SCEEP

6:30am Morning Glories
10:00am Bread for the Journey
3:30pm Bethel-Love Soup Kitchen
6:45pm Carillon Bellringers
8:00pm Chancel Choir

Friday, April 17th JDS/USN

NONPROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID Glen Ridge, N.J. PERMIT No. 15
--