

New Life
by Rev. Frances Savill
Sunday March 26, 2023
Annual Congregational Meeting

Luke 19:1-10

This morning I thought we'd begin an overview of where we are in Luke's gospel. For several weeks Jesus has been teaching on the road towards Jerusalem. Next Sunday is Palm/Passion Sunday where we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week.

I'd like to share with you a Bible project video that goes over Chapter 19-23 of Luke, that I hope will help prepare us to understand the palm and passion narrative.

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/gospel-luke-4/>

Thankfully our story does not end with Jesus' death. Easter Sunday, two weeks away, we will celebrate the empty tomb and Jesus' resurrection and defeat of death.

This message, about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, is the good news that we have been commissioned to share.

At the end of Matthew's gospel Jesus commission his disciples saying:

"All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me."

All the authority and power in all the realms has been given to Jesus.

Jesus says to us; *"¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

We have been sent into the world to baptize, to help others be followers of Jesus, teaching everyone to live Jesus' commands, remembering that Jesus is with us always.

This morning we get to review how we're doing – what we did last year, what we are being called to do this year to grow disciples, to invite and share the good news of the gospel, remembering Jesus is with us always.

This commissioning of Jesus is given to everyone of us.

How are we together growing as disciples and helping others to also grow up in the fullness of Christ Jesus our Lord, that is a question that I reflect on for our congregational meeting.

This meeting celebrates what God is doing in our midst, in our lives, and in the lives of others.

Let us pray: God of the church, God who has commissioned each one of us and called us by name, your Holy Spirit dwells in us, we are your Temple, the dwelling place of the living God.

As we meet and remember the ministry of last year, and as we contemplate your call to your church this year, may your Holy Spirit remind us of what we are be about, the amazingly good news of the gospel that is ours to share and to live. Amen.

Thanks be to God.