

“You will be Found”

By Cathy Love

April 27, 2025

Readings:

Psalm 16

John 20:19 -31

Exodus 3: 1-14

Let us pray:

Gracious God, we come before you today acknowledging your presence in our lives. We ask you to open our hearts and minds to faithfully receive Your word. We remember the promise in Matthew 18:20 “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” In Jesus Name we pray, Amen.

Some of you may have found something unusual in your spots this morning that asked you to wait until the message to say anything. In the singer's group, did you find something unusual?

Sharon did you find something unusual? Tech crew, anyone find anything unusual in the back? Derek, did I give you something special? Would you mind holding it up for everyone to see?

What they found was this small figurine of Jesus that assures them that Jesus Loves them on the banner He is wearing.

For those of you in the pews, in some of the Bible and hymn book holders, if you check there may be one in there. If you found it, it is yours to keep.

But what about the rest of us? The ones that didn't find Jesus? Are we less important or loved than anyone else?

How does it make you feel for those that did find Jesus?

How does it make you feel if you didn't?

Does this make our faith less important than other's faith. Because they have a memento, are they more likely to remember that Jesus loves them?

Not to worry, for those of you who are here in the sanctuary, I have enough for everyone to have one. Please be careful with them as they are not meant for young children as they are a choking hazard.

I saw a video after I decided on this theme of the message by Pastor Brian Trent of the facebook page Trent Tribe. His daughter, with their youth group hid 200 of these little Jesus figures around their church. He said his daughter was asked if they should be hiding Little Jesus. She responded, "We put him in places people least expect to find him." Where would that be for you?

The darkest of nights, the deepest valleys, the bars, the lonely places, when we feel like we have nothing left, when we are at the bottom of the bottom when we can't find Him, Jesus is still there.

Jesus is not afraid of us or our issues, but he will show up in the places we least expect to find Him. He is not hiding from us or our problems, fault or perceived failures. He will meet us there. As I said, He is not hiding from us, we just sometimes don't know where to look for him.

It is that easy to find Jesus because even when we are not actively looking for Him, He is watching over us. We, here in the Church, have been blessed with being able to come to church, hear the message, talk to others of faith, read the Bible and sing beautiful songs of faith.

This leads us to understand and share the message of Jesus to love one another, to have faith in God, to see the beauty in God's creation, to help others and to share our gifts as well as many other blessings.

Where, besides in the Church, can we find Jesus? In the kindness of a stranger, when someone says they are praying for you, when we donate to a cause for someone who is struggling, when we do the work of the church in and out of it, when we celebrate the seasons of the church, when the kids come to Logos on a Friday night. I am sure you see where this is going?

In our Exodus reading, Moses saw a bush burning. Unlike some of us, Moses moved closer to see the bush because it was not consumed by the fire. I must confess, I would be tempted to go the other way even if God was willing me forward. When God saw Moses approach the bush, God called out to him from within the bush. God explained to Moses that He was aware of the human suffering, he hears the cries of those who are troubled and hurting, he sees when other people take advantage of them. God told Moses to bring his people out of Egypt and assured Moses, when Moses questioned who he was that he should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt, that He, God, would be with

Him. When Moses asks God what to say if the Israelites ask what God's name was, God tells Moses to say "I am who I am". God tells Moses to tell them "I am has sent me to you."

In researching this statement, it is explained in one Bible commentary that "I am who I am" is a Hebrew phrase Yahweh. God was saying to Moses "I want to be known as the God who is present and active."

God's faithful love and care is evident in our lives.

In another podcast from Trent Tribe, he speaks about this passage from Exodus and he says that God did not begin to speak to Moses until God saw that Moses turned and went towards the bush.

Pastor Brian says that God was ready and prepared to speak but Moses had to put himself in a position to hear from God to make space to hear from God. Pastor Brian was talking about how at the age of 19, he used to eat his lunch in the truck to read the Bible to make space for God and to be in a position to hear from God.

His message was also that if we are not paying attention, we would have missed the point of the passage from Exodus. He also points out that what he did at 19 was similar to Moses, and this is his thought about the point of the passage – Pastor Brian put the world to the side for the time of his lunch break to make space for God to hear from God and he reminds us that it is a practical way for us to make space to hear from God. Moses put the world aside to check out the burning bush and to hear the word of God.

Maybe he has something there. How many of us would have, in our rushed lives, or in an “I don’t want to get involved” attitude, would have walked past the bush without approaching it and missed the whole conversation with God or, in hearing God’s voice, would have been so overwhelmed and so confused that we would not have listened like Moses did? Nowadays I fear many people would be so busy taking selfies and videos they would not hear God in the chaos.

How many times does God send us a message that we miss? How many places does God show us His existence that we don’t attribute to Him.

How many times do we cry out to God or Jesus, but we don’t really listen for the response? Or, we believe we get a response but it isn’t what we wanted to hear.

Christ Church has a summary of the bible passage we read from John this morning. How does this passage tie into the message of being found or finding Jesus? Hannah Hooker wrote on April 11, 2021 that It is noted that Thomas does not offer an explanation for his absence when Christ appeared to the rest of the disciples and Jesus does not mention Thomas’s absence when He comes to them the second time. She points out that Thomas is not asked about his whereabouts nor is he chastised for his absence. She points out that Jesus “is interested in connection, shared experience and blessing.” Christchurchir.org.

She points out that with the resurrected Christ, we see an aspect of the divine we haven’t seen before,

that there are no longer any barriers between God and God's people. "The grave could not keep Christ away from the world." Remember, they were in a room with a locked door and thick walls, but this could not keep Christ from his disciples. Neither could human resistance, doubt and pragmatism keep Him away. Her comparison is that while Jesus of Nazareth called people to Him, the resurrected Christ meets us wherever we are.

She discusses Thomas's dissatisfaction with the news from his friends that Jesus has returned to them and his refusal to let his relationship with Jesus rest on their testimony. She points out that is how Christ enters into a new relationship with Thomas, He meets him where he is on his spiritual journey. I have heard many times this Easter the message that the miracle and mystery of Easter cannot be contained and held just to Easter. When we hear and believe the resurrection story, we know that we never walk alone. That Jesus is with us not only here in the church, but in our car, at the beach, at work, in our homes, wherever we are. Each of our relationships with Christ is as unique as we are. Through this we can see that despite the source of our trouble, God's comfort, grace and help are more than enough to meet all our needs. He will rescue us in His time not ours.

Jesus is our rock and our foundation; He is ever present in times of trouble.

I would like to talk about a song I heard a while ago. The song is called You Will be Found and although it was not written as a song about faith, it was re-

recorded by Natalie Grant and Cory Ashbury. It went from being a song about helping a friend find their way out of the fogginess of depression and anxiety to, as Lindsay Williams of KLOVE stated, it's about a Saviour who picks us up when we're broken and on the ground. (KLOVE posted Saturday, February 25, 2023 by Lindsay Williams.)

Natalie Grant appears to have felt the same way as I did when I first heard the song. She stated the first time she heard the song; she was overcome by a message of hope. I would agree with her assessment that the love of Christ can find us wherever we are and that no one is too far gone for God's love to find them. We all have a responsibility to be the love of God to everyone around us.

When I first heard this song, I played it repeatedly and felt like God was giving me a sign. No matter what we are going through, no matter how worried we are, or how our faith may falter, we are loved by our God.

We are all fighting battles, some are obvious and some are not. A little love and a small act of kindness can go a long way.

Play the video You Will Be Found – Natalie Grant and Cory Asbury – official lyric video

I hope these words help you in your difficult times – Even when the dark comes crashing through, When you need a friend to carry you, and when you're broken on the ground, you will be found, so let the sun come streaming in, 'cause you'll reach up and you'll rise again, lift your head and look around, you will be found.

After the service, I will have one of these figurines available to each of you if you would like one. Grant will be at the back of the Church handing them out so please see him.

And, when you feel like you have lost touch with Jesus, you can't find Him, I hope this little figurine will be a reminder that He loves you, He is with you and when you can't find Him, He will find you right where you are and that nothing is so bad that He can't help you.

Let us Pray.

Gracious and Loving God. We thank you for the gift of your precious Son Jesus Christ. We thank you for finding us wherever we are and holding us up when we fall. We thank you for loving us. May we remember to look for you when life gets tough. May our hearts be filled with love and reverence for You. We pray in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.