



Scott Turansky, Senior Pastor
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EASTER SUNDAY

[PRAYER] Father, when we ponder your power it's just awesome to think about the magnificence of our universe and the new things science is discovering through amazing telescopes to capture and they see huge parts of our universe. Lord, we're really grateful the fact that you have the power to create all of that, the power to manage it. And we go even further into the souls of our body and those things that are in very small pieces of our world – the power that you have to hold all things together is just so amazing. So Lord, when we see those things of your creation, things that you've created in our world just in our neighborhoods or in our yards, but also in some of the more beautiful places of our country and our world, we're just drawn to admire you. But we worship you because of your power that is so awesome. Lord, we know that that power is something that you want us to somehow connect with, that we need to live each day of our lives. We recognize that that power is available to us and that you describe it as that power that we have available to us that comes from Jesus Christ raising from the dead. That the very center of that power is demonstrated to us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. So thank you. Lord, I want to pray special blessing on every person that's here today that you would help them to see your power and connect with it. I pray especially for our young people, that you would give them a personal faith. One that they can understand and grasp and they can experience you in a very personal way. So today, Lord, as we read your word and apply it to our lives, we ask that you would speak to each of us. In Jesus' name, amen.

I noticed Bryson at thirteen years old has his notepad and paper out ready to take notes. That's faith. I really appreciate that, Bryson, about you. I think that God may speak in this moment through what we read and what we talk about. So I encourage you to have a pencil and paper ready to hear and write down what He says (not what I say; what He says) to you.

There are four gospels and in the four gospels we have the story of Jesus. We have miracles that are told about. We have His parables that He taught. We have the story of how things happened in and around the gospels. And all four gospels tell the resurrection story from different perspectives. As we look at those four different perspectives, well it's nice when I looked this week at the chronological Bible that wove them all together. Just looking at the verses and tying them together because the story is kind of in pieces. But when you put it all together, it makes this one fluid story. I appreciated it and I realized that I didn't know all of the facts about the Bible story of Easter.

In fact I was so moved by it that I printed it out and I'm going to read it to you. I'm going to read you the Bible today. I'm going to take ten or twelve minutes and I'm going to read you the Easter story. I want you to hear it from God's word, but you're going to hear it in a way that you don't normally hear it. You're going to hear the convergent of the four gospels together all

sharing the story in a chronological order that I think you'll find interesting and you'll be reminded of the facts as I needed to be reminded of the facts as well.

We're going to pick up the story right after Jesus Christ died at about three o'clock in the afternoon Friday, Day #1. Remember the day in Jewish history goes from the evening to the morning. So Day #1 took place on Friday. Jesus died about three o'clock in the afternoon, so there's some events on Friday. Saturday is mostly a quiet day, at least for the Jewish people, from Friday evening over into Saturday at sundown. And then the third day starts on Saturday evening at sundown and goes into Sunday. I'm going to take you even into the evening of Sunday so you can see the activity that took place from three o'clock on Friday afternoon until the end of Sunday.

Listen to God's word. I would encourage you just if you want to close your eyes to visualize being in the story, feeling the things that they felt, imagining what it must have been like to be there at that time.

When evening had now come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathaea, a prominent council member who also himself was looking for God's Kingdom, came. He boldly went in to Pilate, and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate marveled if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead long. When he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.

He came therefore and took away his body. Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-two pounds. So they took Jesus' body, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.

Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden. In the garden was a new tomb in which no man had ever yet been laid. Then because of the Jews' Preparation Day (for the tomb was near at hand) they laid Jesus there.

The women followed after, and saw the tomb, and how his body was laid. They returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath Day they rested according to the commandment.

This is on the Saturday, the second day. Now the chief priests and the Pharisees were gathered together to Pilate, saying, "Sir, we remember what that deceiver said while he was still alive: 'After three days I will rise again.' Command therefore that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest perhaps his disciples come at night and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He is risen from the dead;' and the last deception will be worse than the first."

Pilate said to them, "You have a guard. Go, make it as secure as you can." So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone.

On Sunday morning. Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. Behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from the sky, and came and rolled away the

stone from the door, and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him, the guards shook, and became like dead men.

Entering into the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were amazed. He said to them, "Don't be amazed. You seek Jesus, the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen. He is not here. Behold, the place where they laid him! But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He goes before you into Galilee. There you will see him, as he said to you.'" They went out, and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had come on them.

Mary Magdalene ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have laid him!"

Therefore Peter and the other disciple went out, and they went toward the tomb. They both ran together. The other disciple outran Peter, and came to the tomb first. Stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths lying, yet he didn't enter in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and entered into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying, and the cloth that had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths, but rolled up in a place by itself. So then the other disciple who came first to the tomb also entered in, and he saw and believed. For as yet they didn't know the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. So the disciples went away again to their own homes.

But Mary was standing outside at the tomb weeping. So, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb, and saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. They told her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, and didn't know it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?"

She, supposing him to be the gardener, said to him, "Sir, if you have taken and carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned and said to him, "Rabboni!" which is to say, "Teacher!"

Jesus said to her, "Don't hold me, for I haven't yet ascended to my Father; but go to my brothers, and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had said these things to her.

Behold, some of the guards came into the city, and told the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave a large amount of silver to the soldiers, saying, "Say that his disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. If this comes to the governor's ears, we will persuade him and make you

free of worry.” So they took the money and did as they were told. This saying was spread abroad among the Jews, and continues until today.

Two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. They talked with each other about all of these things which had happened. While they talked and questioned together, Jesus himself came near, and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. He said to them, “What are you talking about as you walk, and are sad?”

One of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who doesn’t know the things which have happened there in these days?”

He said to them, “What things?”

They said to him, “The things concerning Jesus, the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people; and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we were hoping that it was he who would redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Also, certain women of our company amazed us, having arrived early at the tomb; and when they didn’t find his body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of us went to the tomb, and found it just like the women had said, but they didn’t see him.”

He said to them, “Foolish men, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Didn’t the Christ have to suffer these things and to enter into his glory?” Beginning from Moses and from all the prophets, he explained to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. They came near to the village, where they were going, and he acted like he would go further. They urged him, saying, “Stay with us, for it is almost evening, and the day is almost over.” He went in to stay with them. When he had sat down at the table with them, he took the bread and gave thanks. Breaking it, he gave to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished out of their sight. They said to one another, “Weren’t our hearts burning within us, while he spoke to us along the way, and while he opened the Scriptures to us?”

They rose up that very hour, returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and those who were with them, saying, “The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” They related the things that happened along the way, and how he was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread. As they said these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace be to you.” But they were terrified and filled with fear, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

He said to them, “Why are you troubled? Why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is truly me. Touch me and see, for a spirit doesn’t have flesh and bones, as you see that I have.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they still didn’t believe for joy, and wondered, he said to them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. He took them, and ate in front of them.

That just takes us to Sunday night. There's yet the story of Him appearing to Thomas, the story of Him meeting Peter on the side of the lake. And in fact the gospel of John says there are many more stories that aren't contained even in the book.

But as I read just this one part of the scriptures, I'm impressed by the emotions that people are experiencing. There's a lot of sadness, a lot of discouragement, a lot of disillusionment, a lot of confusion. And so as we find touch points for our lives today, I want to start with that. That sense that there's this emotional drama that they're experiencing in this moment and as they're experiencing that, I'm reminded of the emotional drama that we experience in our own lives. That right now around us we have times when we are discouraged or depressed or disillusioned or confused. And not just by life circumstances. We're actually confused by God. Because we expected that He would do something different in our lives that He has done at this point. That is the problem happening with the people during the resurrection experience because this isn't how the story should end, is what they were saying to themselves.

Now I don't know about you, but when I watch a movie, I like happy endings. I like the ending where the two people are sitting on the beach looking out at the water and the camera pans out and everything is happy and everyone lives happily ever after. I know some of you like happy endings where everybody dies at the end of the movie. I don't like those kinds of movies.

So when I look at this particular drama and I see the challenges that they're experiencing, I can identify with them. I can feel the pain because this shouldn't end this way. This isn't what I was expecting of God. As the men were walking along the road they said, "We thought He would be the one who would rescue us." Even the crowds the week before as they welcome Jesus in on Palm Sunday believe that He would be the one who would rescue them. He would be the one who would provide them the overthrow of the Roman government. And that's why they cried out, "Hosanna." So now on this day, they're feeling quite upset, disappointed, discouraged by the challenges that they're seeing. Because God didn't do it the way they thought He should.

I think that happens in many of our lives. In our lives we see that God didn't do it the way we think He should have done it. So our lives are in this place that sometimes cause discouragement or depression, confusion in our lives.

There are thirty-four miracles recorded in the gospels. We like the miracles. I think we all come in our lives at different points where we need a miracle. But I want to encourage you, don't pursue miracles, pursue Jesus. Because when you pursue Jesus it's in the midst of that you come into the place where miracles take place. But here's the problem with miracles. We love the miracle, but we don't like the position that you need to be in in order to get a miracle. And that is an impossible problem. We find ourselves with impossible problems in our lives and those impossible problems that we experience are really the seedbed for miracles that God wants to do. Maybe God wants to change our thinking today. Maybe He wants to come into your world and shatter your perception of God and He wants to open up something new inside of you. Maybe He wants to do a miracle this morning in your heart.

I'd like this morning to look at a passage of scripture out of the ones that I read. I'm going to look at the passage in Mark 16, just the first few verses. And I want to look at the women. It's

interesting that God chose these women to be the first ones who would experience the resurrection on Easter Sunday morning. I want to try to draw some principles or some lessons or some touch points from the passage that we can apply to our own hearts today.

If you notice in the passage it says – *When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"*

I'm actually fascinated by that and I think there's an important touch point for us because we all want to see a miracle, we all want to be part of a miracle. But in this case they had a problem, a significant problem. So the first principle I want us to see is this one: Don't wait to get it all figured out before walking forward. They had the spices, they're walking forward, but they have a problem and the problem is a rock. A big rock. A boulder that is covering up the entrance to the tomb. And they don't know what they're going to do about it. But the fact that they don't have all of the answers doesn't prevent them from taking all the steps forward and do what they know to be right. That's what we call faith.

You might look at your life and have a lot of questions about Jesus. You may have a lot of questions about faith, a lot of questions about God's word, and I want you to know that's okay. You don't have to have all the answers in order to take steps towards Jesus. That's what they're doing in this passage. They're taking steps towards Jesus, but they're not letting the boulder get in the way. Oh they're wondering about the boulder, they're wondering about this big rock, but that rock isn't preventing them from taking the steps they know they need to take. Likely you know what steps you need to take and don't get distracted by the huge boulders that are in the way. That's a physical boulder that was in their way, but there are boulders that we experience in our own lives. Boulders that have to do with life situations or finances or housing or challenges that we have in our lives. There are very specific boulders that are in our way. Sometimes the boulder is a person that's in the way, that creates some hindrance from your enjoying the resurrection life that God wants you to enjoy. There's a boulder in the way. Don't let the boulders prevent you from taking steps forward. We can all take steps forward with the light that we have knowing what God wants us to do right now. Let's not let the boulder stop us from taking these steps of progress.

There's a story that I love in the Old Testament. It's the story of the Israelites getting ready to go into the Promised Land under Joshua's leadership. So they're actually going to go into the Promised Land, but they have a boulder in the way. Oh it's not a rock. In this case it's a river that's reached flood stage and it's so big that they can't cross over with their million people that they have and all of the animals and all of the children. It's just an insurmountable problem. Yet God gives instructions to Joshua about what to do and Joshua then reports those instructions to the people. And He says this: *"As soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD--the Lord of all the earth--set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap."* Notice what they had to do. They had to step into the water.

God has called us to a life of faith. Faith by its very definition means we don't have all of the answers. We don't know everywhere we're going. We just take these steps of faith that take us to

the next place at our life. You may be struggling in your own life about what to do with Jesus and how does Jesus fit into your life as you're experiencing that right now. I want you to know, the step you need to take is to trust Jesus. As you start trusting Him then those answers are revealed, those rocks are moved, those boulders are moved out of the way, that river is crossed. But I don't want you to feel like you have all the answers in order to take the first step.

The Bible is referred to as a light, but notice how the word of God is describes in Psalm 119:105. It says – *Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.* It's like this little oil lamp that's made out of clay. A clay pot, and it has a little flame. It can't see way in the future, but it can light the path and it can be a lamp unto my feet right in front of me. As you read God's word, as you take steps of faith in your own personal faith, God starts opening more and more and gives you more light to be able to see where you're going and that's when you get to see the resurrection Jesus in a very personal and powerful way.

So I love the story about the women and I'm actually inspired by it because these women had this ability to take steps and go out and do something. They were carrying spices that maybe they're not even going to get to Jesus, but they're taking steps of faith to do what's right even if they don't have all of the answers.

The second principle that we see comes from a different passage of scripture. I'm leaving the first passage there on the screen that we've looked at already, but notice the second passage because it takes place at the same time. These two passages are taking place in time at the same time and we have to see that at same time that the women are walking, God is working. Notice what's happening.

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. Interesting part of the story. we could just dive into that for a little bit and the angels that are involved in this particular story, but I want to draw your attention to the fact that God is working while we're walking. This is part of our faith walk that we take. To recognize that God is working in your life right now and you don't even realize it. Your job is to take the walk, the steps of faith, get closer to the Lord, to understand more about who He is, to walk with Him in your life. Wow. God is working while you are walking. And often God does His best work in the dark and you don't even realize it.

Sometimes we get a glimpse of this. Isn't that true? Even if you've walked with the Lord for a while and you've watched situations develop, sometimes you come to a situation and you go, "Wow, I wonder what God is doing here." And other times you come to a situation and you say, "Wow, now I see what God was doing back there that I didn't understand." Right? You apply for a job that you thought you were getting, you got your heart set on it and the answer is no, you're not going to get that job. And you go, "Wow, God. I really wanted that job." But God is choosing to do something different for whatever reason. And you look back and you say, "You know what, I'm really glad I didn't get that job because the Lord opened something else for me that I'm in right now." Wow. That's the ability to see God work.

You know we don't always get that privilege. So we don't make decisions in our lives based on what we know that God is doing. We make decisions on what we know God is doing and we

trust the Lord for the rest. And that's what these women are doing. They're actually quite inspiring, these women, whoever they are in our lives because they point us in a direction and they remind us of where we need to go. That we need to be taking our own steps in the right direction.

Well let's go back to the Mark 16 passage because I want to draw to a third element that I think is very important for us to understand. If you want to experience a miracle, if you want to see the resurrection of Jesus in your own personal life, you want to experience the resurrection life in your own heart, you've got to understand the third principle. So let me read the verse and then I'll tell you what it is.

“Don't be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’” Notice the emotion. Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Principle. You're probably wondering what in the world are you going to get out of this. Right? The principle: When you experience God, it shakes you up. You've got to understand this. Because sometimes we oversell Christianity. People like me, we tell you, “Hey look, come to Jesus. It's going to solve all your problems.” Well it is true that God will address your problems, but to think that all you're going to have is a life with no problems is a mistake. When we start believing that God is a God of no problems then we start finding ourselves in some places where we're likely to get shaken up. Because He doesn't always work in the ways that we wish He would work. God doesn't always work in the ways that we expect. And in this story we have several people who are coming and experiencing Jesus and it's shaking them up.

You've got to know that if you come into contact with God it's going to shake you up. Because God is going to require that your heart make some changes and you're going to go, “Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa. I don't know how God is fitting this into my life. I don't know what I'm going to do with this.” So God does a deeper work inside of us that is often emotionally challenging because we didn't expect it to end it this way, as the disciples said. We didn't expect ourselves to be in this particular situation like this.

Jesus is making change and if you look through the story of the resurrection, you see that the changes are personal. If you look at the Thomas story, what did Thomas need? “I won't believe unless I see and feel the handprints and touch His side.” Jesus says okay. He appears to him again. “Okay, do it. I'm going to give you what you need, Thomas, so that you can believe.” It's a very personal experience because God knows what Thomas needs – evidence. Enough evidence to choose to trust Him.

But with Mary it's completely different. In the garden she's just so upset. She doesn't even see Jesus standing right there, which I'm sure is true for some of us. Jesus is right next to us and we don't see Him because of the complexity of our issues. And what does God do in that situation? God is very personal with Mary and comforts her and calls her name. Because that's what she needed was the comfort of God.

Today if you've been through some significant trauma and struggle and pain, or you're living with things that are just very difficult and even overwhelming, you need to know that God is a God of comfort and He comes to you in that way.

Peter's completely different. Jesus meets Peter on the side of the Sea of Galilee. Peter, you know, had denied Christ three times. Peter was great when he was in control. He was one of those control kind of guys. He liked to be in control. If he had a sword in his hand, he was great at cutting off the servant's ear because he's in control. He told Jesus the night before the betrayal and earlier that evening, "I will never deny you." He's in charge. But then he failed. He denied Christ three times. So Jesus comes to him on the side of the Sea of Galilee and He reaffirms him and reinstates him, and puts him back in ministry. Because what Peter needed was forgiveness.

As we look at our own lives and see the pain that we've caused other people or the pain that we've caused God or we've caused for ourselves, one of the greatest needs we have inside of our hearts is this need for forgiveness. So God comes to Peter knowing that and provides for him exactly what he needs in that situation. It's going to shake us up. If we come to know God and know Him personally, it's going to mess with our hearts. It's going to cause us to think differently. It's going to challenge us in ways we maybe even didn't want to be challenged, but we know it's right.

There's something good about this kind of shaking up. We might not like it, but we know that it's moving us in the right direction, so we're willing to allow God to do something deeper inside of our hearts. What happens in the midst of this and as the story unfolds on a Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon and the following days is we see people starting to develop something inside of their hearts, something we all need, and that is hope. This hope generates something beautiful inside that makes room for... Hope is the container in which peace and joy and love often flow. And God creates that container of hope in our lives through the resurrection of Jesus. Peter himself writes this. As he's writing, he said – *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

Jesus knew what each person needed. Peter needed something very special inside of his heart. And when he comes to share the message with us and everyone else, he describes it this way: That God is merciful and He offers us this born again experience.

Have you accepted Jesus Christ? Have you taken that step of faith? Because when it comes down to it and you start looking inside your life and you start looking at the challenges you have, you recognize your weaknesses. You recognize the brokenness that's there. God calls it sin, that it corrupts us. Sometimes our own personal sin. But sometimes the sin of other people just messes with us. We have a problem. It's called sin. And so when Jesus Christ died on that cross, He died for those sins and He died for the problem of sin in our life so that we can experience the resurrection of Jesus Christ inside of our own hearts. We can have new life and that's what God offers for each one of us. And that's how the story ends.

The story has a beautiful ending here that takes us into a new beginning in each one of our lives and offers us this amazing hope. And where does it come back to? It comes from Jesus Christ rising from the dead.

Maybe for you today this is a new beginning. This is a time for you to say, “I want Jesus to control, to run my life. I’m going to take steps toward Him and watch Him work, even in my different situation.” God knows your heart. He knows your life. He knows what you’ve done, where you’re going, and what you’re living with right now. And He loves you. In the midst of that love, He designed a plan for you. A plan that allows you to embrace Him as your Lord and as your Savior. And then this resurrection hope starts to grow inside and amazing things happen, miracles take place. It starts when we commit ourselves to Jesus. But then there’s this continual commitment that we make. Isn’t it that those of you who have been believers for a long time know that you continually commit yourself to Christ in order to receive the blessings that He wants to offer.

So I’m going to pray now and I’m going to ask all of you to repeat this prayer with me and allow God to speak to you through the prayer and make this your own prayer as you talk to the Lord in your own heart. Would you bow your heads with me and repeat after me:

[PRAYER] Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me. I know that I have weaknesses. I know that I have sin in my life. I’m grateful for you as my Savior. I want to dedicate myself to you. I want you to lead me in my life. I want to walk for you. In Jesus’ name, amen.

If you’ve prayed that prayer for the first time, I’d love to know about that. Maybe you can shoot me an email or stop by the information table and tell them. Because what I’ll do is I will send you a Bible lesson that you can do on your own, that you can study the Bible on your own, for yourself, that allows you to learn more about what it means to follow Jesus. When you get done with Lesson 1, I’ll send you Lesson 2. Then I’ll send you Lesson 3. When you say you’re done with Lesson 3, I’ll send you Lesson 4. You’ll have some personal time with the Lord in a way that you can grow spiritually and allow God to work in your own life.

I’d encourage you to be part of this fellowship. Because we are weak people relying on God’s strength and growing together. I welcome you to join with us as we do that each week to understand more about what it means to live this life that God has called us to live.

Would you stand with me? I’m going to pray again and then we’re going to sing this song that the words are really meaty. I mean every phrase is so valuable and important. So as you’re watching the words, maybe the Lord will speak to you in a particular way from the things that have been said, the scriptures that have been read, or the songs that have been sung today. So take some time and talk to the Lord. If you’d like prayer for some area of your life, there are prayer counselors up here ready to pray for you. We’d love to pray with you and for you this morning. Let’s pray.

[PRAYER] So God, we thank you for this living hope that we have because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Lord, make that a very personal experience for each one of us so that we can rely on it in ways that we never have before. We want to trust you and walk in faith and grow. Lord,

remove those boulders that are in the way in our hearts. Be honored as we sing before you now.
In Jesus' name, amen.