



April 12, 2017

AT EASTER, GOD GOES AHEAD OF US

*"I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him."
Matthew 28:5-7*

On Easter Sunday, I will preach on the sermon title "Ahead of You" at our 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services. This is the message to the disciples at the empty tomb, when the angel tells them that Jesus is not there but "is going *ahead of you* to Galilee." When they set out to begin the journey, the risen Christ meets them.

God is always ahead of us. There is no place we can go where God hasn't been before. During our Maundy Thursday worship service tomorrow at 8:00 p.m., we will remember the night of the last supper, and the arrest and trial of Jesus on the way to his death. We will remember that wherever people suffer, God has been there ahead of us. We are never alone. God is with us.

On Friday, when we worship at noon to mark the day and time when Jesus was crucified, we will remember that God has gone ahead of us even to death. Jesus knows the lament "my God, why have you forsaken me?" And now we know that the God of love, who pronounced mercy on those who crucified him, is also the conqueror of death.

On Easter, we will proclaim that there is no limit to the love and power of God – not even the tomb. Our voices will join with organ, brass, and timpani to sing "Christ the Lord is risen today! Alleluia!" (doing our best to celebrate the glory and mystery of Easter). We will heed the angel who tells us not to look for God in the tomb, but always ahead of us in the new life that God gives to the world.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster
Senior Minister