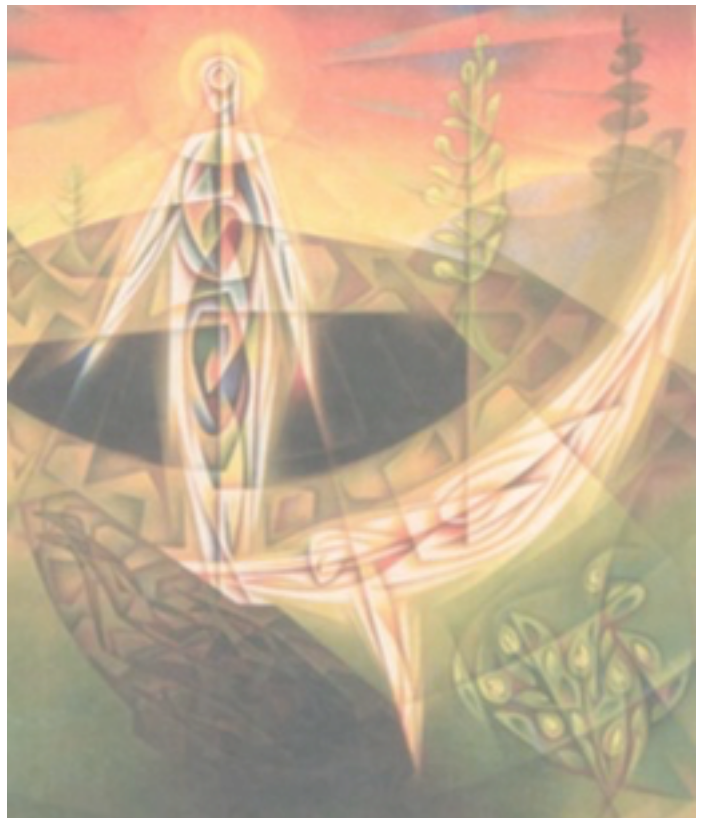


Resurrection Stations

the connection – April 17, 2016



Fountain (Stage)

Starting with Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent, with special focus on Good Friday, we consider the areas in our life where we need to turn from sin and remain faithful to the gospel. The beautiful thing about Easter is those sins confessed are completely washed away because of the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is an important reminder that we can always come to our resurrected Lord for forgiveness and reconciliation.

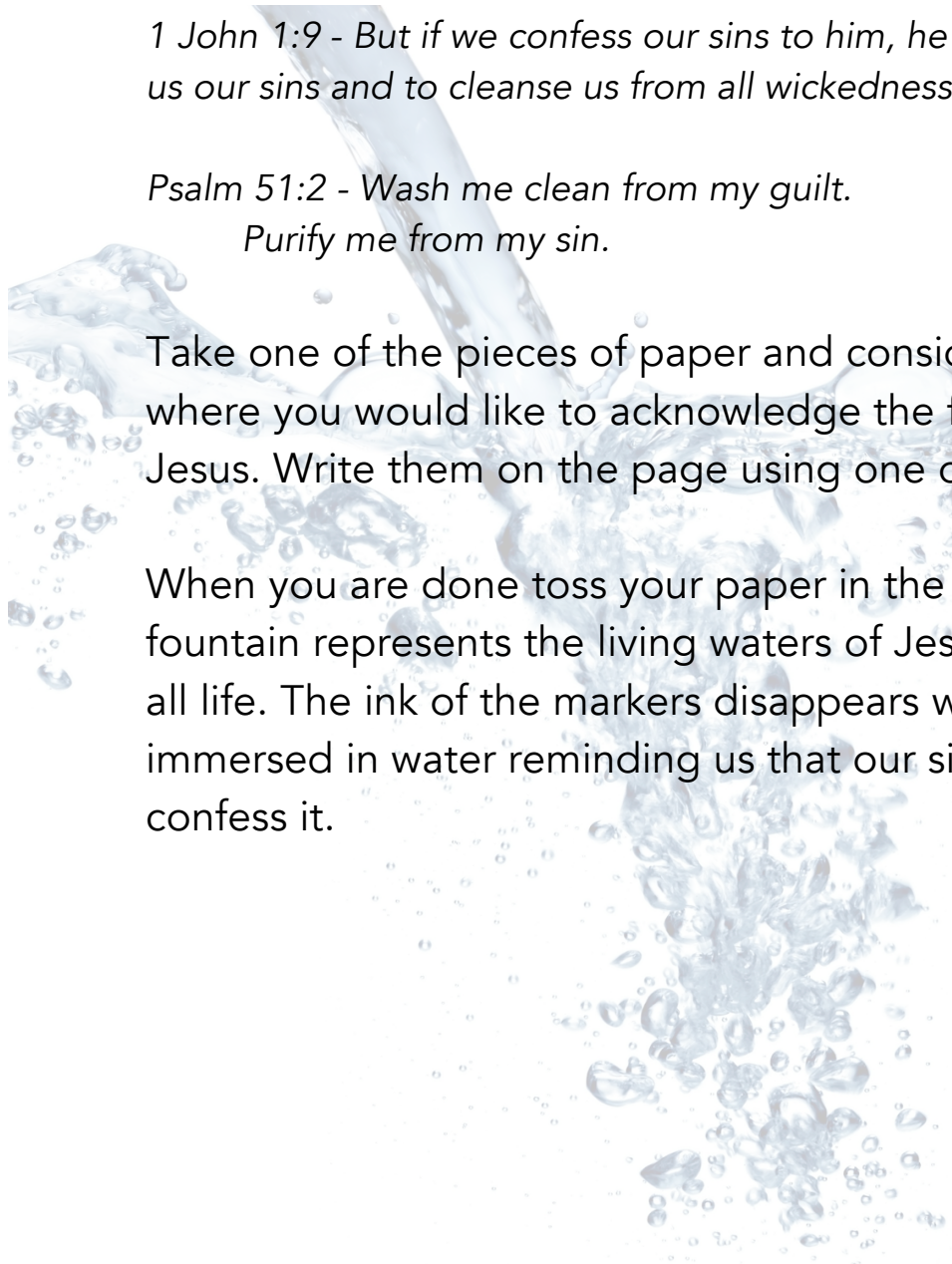
Water is a key image celebrating the cleansing of our sin.

1 John 1:9 - But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness

*Psalms 51:2 - Wash me clean from my guilt.
Purify me from my sin.*

Take one of the pieces of paper and consider areas in your life where you would like to acknowledge the forgiveness found in Jesus. Write them on the page using one of the markers provided.

When you are done toss your paper in the water fountain. The fountain represents the living waters of Jesus. He is the source of all life. The ink of the markers disappears when the paper is immersed in water reminding us that our sin is erased when we confess it.



Planting (Overflow Coffee Bar)

Luke 24:5 "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

A bulb might look dry and dead. However, there is beautiful potential for life in the bulb, when given the right care. The Christian journey is like this. Resurrection is the beginning of life breaking forth where there was once death.

Take one of the bulbs and plant it in one of the pots. Place some soil in the pot, plant the bulb and then cover it with more soil. As you do this, consider the places in your life where you are longing for death to be transformed into life.

Part of caring for flower is providing necessary water and sunlight. As you care for the plant consider also how you are caring for yourself in your spiritual journey. What areas need to be watered? What areas need more sun?



Go, Tell... one-another (overflow-right side)

Matthew 28:5-7 – The angel spoke to the women, "... And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead."

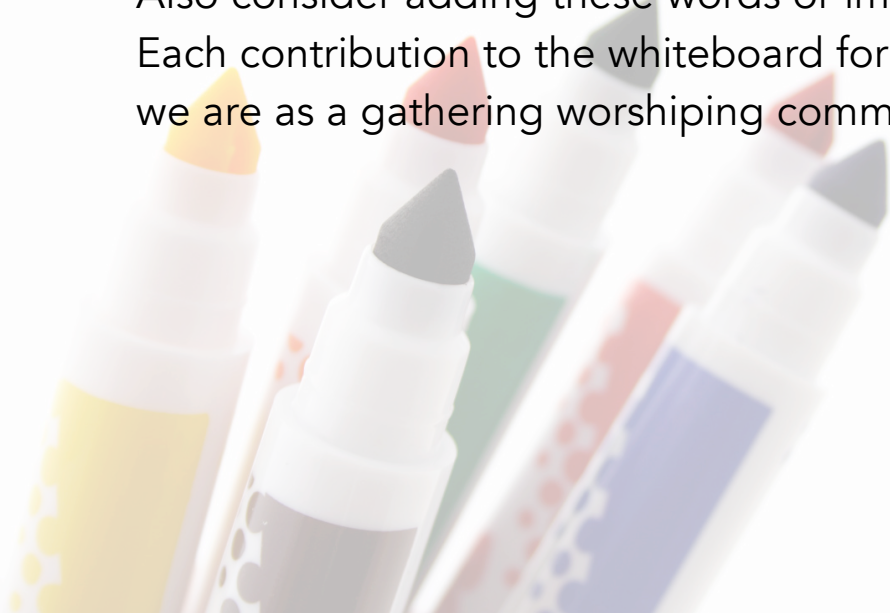
Matthew 28:10 - Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there."

When the women encounter the angel and then also when they encounter Jesus the instruction they receive is to go and tell. The news of Jesus' resurrection is too good not to share; it is too wonderful not to celebrate; it is too exciting not to bring other people into the joy of the resurrection.

Consider what words or images come to mind when you consider the resurrection story. What would you go and tell about your encounter with the resurrected Jesus?

There is space on the next sheet to sketch out words, thoughts, stories and pictures that come to mind when you consider the resurrection.

Also consider adding these words or images to the whiteboard. Each contribution to the whiteboard forms part of the story of who we are as a gathering worshipping community.



Go, Tell... everyone else (overflow-left side)

Resurrection pushes people out into the world to announce in word and deed the truth that Jesus is raised from the dead. Jesus' resurrection was never meant to remain a personal experience.

Matthew 28:18-20 ¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

It is hard at times to know what the first step is supposed to be. How do I go and make disciples? What can I do?

Spread around the station are various ideas to help you consider at least one way you can participate in announcing the resurrection in word and deed.

- There are encouragement cards that you could write someone. Write them a card and commit to praying for them.
- Grab a coffee shop card (they have \$5 on them) and commit to taking someone out for coffee.
- Invite someone to Godspell or put up a poster.
- There are some sign-up sheets for areas where people would need intentional care (meals, visit with a senior; we will help arrange this if you sign-up).
- There are various organizations around the city that you could volunteer with.

These are just ideas of ways you could go and tell about the resurrection. Feel free to imagine other ideas that fit well in the place you find yourself.

the Table

Jesus appears to two of his disciples as they return to their home in Emmaus. They are confused and perplexed by what has transpired. They are surprised that Jesus, whom they have been prevented from recognizing, doesn't know what has happened in Jerusalem. Jesus explains to them how the scriptures point to the suffering of the messiah. Here is the conclusion of the story...

Luke 24:28-35

²⁸ By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, ²⁹ but they begged him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So he went home with them. ³⁰ As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!

³² They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" ³³ And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, ³⁴ who said, "The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter."

³⁵ Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread.

Our journey with Christ can often be like this. It is not always easy to recognizing his presence along the way. We often walk perplexed and confused trying to make sense of life. However, like the disciples Christ travels with us along the journey, revealing himself to us in the process.

As you come to the table this evening ask Christ to reveal himself to you in the breaking of the bread.

