

# Resurrection Dance

April 21, 2019

Easter Sunday

Pastor Tom Ford

Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church

Pasadena, California

## John 20:1-18

[1] Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

[2] So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

[3] Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.

[4] The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

[5] He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.

[6] Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there,

[7] and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

[8] Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;

[9] for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

[10] Then the disciples returned to their homes.

[11] But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;

[12] and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.

[13] They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

[14] When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

[15] Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

[16] Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

[17] Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to

**Interim Pastor Tom Ford**



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my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" [18] Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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Christ is risen!

Happy Easter to each of you! And much joy! I am so glad you have come. I hope today is very special for you and everyone in your life.

Martin Luther said, "If you could understand a single grain of wheat, you would die of wonder." Well, welcome to God's wheat field! The Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus The Christ! It cannot be understood. It can only be believed. And lived. And celebrated.

What we celebrate is the reality that God ultra miraculously and supernaturally intervened in this world and raised Jesus Our Lord from the dead. The Gospel has already announced it.

It is, therefore, the time for the human heart - yours and mine - to leap for joy. The time for celebrating with sheer abandon. Christ Our Lord has been raised from the dead!

This necessarily means our Lord is alive and present here this very moment.

You ask for proof? Come and eat and drink.

You ask for proof? Love each other as he loved us.

As these things are done, the Risen Lord Jesus Christ is present.

With the Risen Lord Jesus Christ present, there is no longer any need to wallow in the neuroses we have birthed out of our fears of death.

Death is not the final answer and never will be.

Christ Our Lord has been raised from the dead! He extends his nailed scarred resurrected hands to you, and you and you and invites you to dance!

Dance with him! **AMEN.**

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