

# JESUS IS LOOSE IN THE WORLD

(Matthew 28:1-10)

Intro: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!  
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Jesus is loose in the world.  
-Death could not destroy him.  
-Grave could not hold him.

Jesus is loose in the world.  
-Some of you might recognize the name Peter Mayer.  
#Son of parents.  
\*Jim and Sammie.  
\*Who were missionaries in India.  
\*Who later moved to St. Louis.  
+Where I met them.  
#Plays guitar.  
\*In Jimmy Buffett's Coral Reefer Band.  
\*Has his own musical group.  
+Tours during Advent.  
+Playing Christmas concerts.  
=Some of us have attended.  
-When they played at Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian.  
\*Has written other religious pieces.  
+Including one that's called *God is Loose in the World*.  
=Tears of sadness for the hands that kill  
Tears of joy when life is born  
Heard a bell ring freedom and my sails are filled  
In a rusty nail a cross and a temple curtain torn.  
=Chorus.  
-Oh Oh Oh Oh hear the news  
Love is loose hey ey  
Love is loose in the world  
Oh Oh Oh Oh the universe is singing  
Loose hey hey  
God is loose in the world.

- Message of Easter.
  - #Angel to the Marys.
    - \*Mary Magdalene.
    - \*Other Mary.
  - #“You are looking for Jesus,”
    - \*“Who was crucified.”
    - “He is not here.”
    - “He has been raised.”
    - “He is going ahead of you to Galilee.”
    - “There you will see him.”
    - \*Matthew 28:5-7.
    - “Jesus is loose in the world.”

## I. Jesus Is Still Loose In The World.

### A. If We But Have Eyes To See.

1. Mary Faulkner has been doing her usually splendid job.
  - a. Putting together:
    - Bulletins.
    - Orders of worship.
      - #Not just for Sundays.
      - #But for:
        - \*Mid-week soup suppers.
        - \*Holy Week.
          - +Maundy Thursday.
          - +Good Friday.
  - b. Mary is usually ahead of the curve.
    - So that Holy Week is not so much of a crunch.
    - #For her.
    - #For me.
2. There are two possible Gospel readings for Easter Sunday.
  - a. John 20:1-18.
    - Peter racing to the empty tomb.
    - Mary Magdalene not recognizing Jesus through her tears.
  - b. Matthew 28:1-10.
3. Already 10-12 days ago.
  - a. Mary asked me which Gospel reading I wanted to use for this morning.
  - b. I told her Matthew 28.
  - c. She said:
    - “I knew that.”
  - d. I asked her:
    - “How did you know that?”

- e. She said:  
-“Because the readings for Palm Sunday were from Matthew.”
- f. I said:  
-“And the readings for Good Friday were from John.”
- g. Then she asked me:  
-“So why did you pick Matthew?”
- h. I told her:  
-I wanted to focus on the part of the story.  
#Where the angels tell the Marys.  
#Then Jesus tells the Marys.  
\*Jesus is going ahead to Galilee.  
\*That is where the disciples will see him.  
-I raised the question with Mary.  
#“Where do we see Jesus today?”
- i. She said:  
-“We can see God in all kinds of different places.”
- j. I said:  
-“Exactly!”  
-“If we but have eyes to see.”  
#Eyes of faith.

## B. Where Is Galilee For Us?

- 1. Where is the risen Christ already?
  - a. Present.
  - b. At work.
- 2. All too often.
  - a. We may be operating under the assumption.
    - We need:
      - #To take Jesus into the community.
      - #To make Jesus present.
      - \*If we have the right:
        - +Programs.
        - +Evangelism strategy.
  - b. Rather than recognizing.
    - God is already at work in the world.
    - All we have to do is figure out how to help.
- 3. Second Petition of the Lord’s Prayer.
  - a. “Thy kingdom come.”
  - b. Luther’s explanation:
    - The kingdom of God comes indeed without our prayer,*
    - But we pray in this petition that it may come among us also.*
  - c. We do not bring in the kingdom.
    - God is already loose in the world.

## II. Where Do We See God In The World?

### A. Treasure In Clay Jars Workshop.

1. Couple of weeks ago.
  - a. About 70-75 people attended.
  - b. Including 4 of us from Ascension.
2. One of our assignments.
  - a. Draw a picture.
    - Where we had seen Jesus.
  - b. My artistic abilities.
    - Slightly lower than my musical abilities.
    - I drew a picture.
      - #Myself.
      - #My granddaughter Sophia.
        - \*Who will celebrate her first birthday on Tuesday.
    - I go to Sophia's house every Monday.
      - #When I first started going.
        - \*She didn't want to have anything to do with me.
        - \*She fussed:
          - +When I walked in the door.
          - +When I got near her.
          - +When I tried to hold her.
      - #After awhile.
        - \*She still fussed when I walked in the door.
        - \*But I got down on the floor.
          - +Started to play with her toys.
        - \*Eventually.
          - +She stopped fussing.
          - +She came over to play with me.
      - #Then one day.
        - \*I walked in the door.
        - \*Sophia:
          - +Didn't fuss anymore
          - +But she kept her distance for awhile.
        - \*I got down on the floor.
          - +To play with her toys.
          - +When she was ready.
            - =She would crawl over to me.
            - =She would start to play.
      - #Our relationship kept growing.
        - \*One day.
          - +I walked in the door.
          - +I got down on the floor.
        - \*She crawled right up into my lap for a hug.

- #Now when I go over there.
    - \*She puts her arms up right away.
      - +As if to say:
        - =“Grandpa, pick me up.”
        - =“Grandpa, give me a hug.”
  - If that isn’t a picture of the grace of God.
    - #I don’t know what is.
      - \*How we can grow in our love for one another.
      - \*How this little bundle of spunk.
        - +Can love me:
          - =For who I am.
            - No questions asked.
            - =Simply because I keep showing up.
- c. Katherine Tooley.
- Not here this morning.
    - #Because of the lilies.
  - But she was at the Treasure in Clay Jars workshop.
    - #Couple of weeks ago.
  - She drew a picture of Reasor’s grocery store.
    - #Katherine uses a walker.
      - \*When she comes here.
    - #She uses a scooter.
      - \*In the grocery store.
    - #Recently she was in the grocery store.
      - \*In the scooter.
        - \*There was something on a high shelf.
          - +She couldn’t reach from her scooter.
        - \*Man asked if she needed help.
        - \*Katherine told him what she was after.
        - \*This man:
          - +Got it down for her.
          - +Asked if she needed any other help with her shopping.
        - \*She said:
          - +No.        +She could manage.
        - \*But this man.
          - +Kept an eye on her as she shopped.
            - =Not really stalking her.
          - +But when she needed help.
            - =With another item on a high shelf.
          - +He was right there to assist.
            - =All the time until Katherine was ready to check out.
        - \*Katherine thanked the man profusely for his help.
          - +He told her to have a blessed day.
- d. God is loose in the world.

B. Church Council Meeting The Next Day.

1. I invited the members of the council.
  - a. To draw a picture.
  - b. Where they had seen God in the past week.
2. Some drew pictures.
  - a. Landscapes.
    - They had seen God in nature.
  - b. Other people.
    - They had seen God in family and friends.
  - c. Only one person.
    - Drew a picture of this building.
3. God is loose in this place.
  - a. In water and Word.
  - b. In bread and wine.
  - c. In:
    - Worship.
    - Sunday School.
    - Bible study.
    - Fellowship.
4. But God is also loose in the world.
  - a. Out there.
  - b. Ahead of us.
  - c. In Galilee.
5. Most of the pictures.
  - a. From the workshop on Saturday.
  - b. From the Church Council meeting on Sunday.
    - God was loose in the world.
    - God was loose in other people.

Concl: As we Rekindle the Fire.  
-Our process of congregational renewal.

We would do well.  
-To be alert to those God moments.  
-To be open to those:  
#Times.  
#Places.  
\*Where God is loose in the world.

-To be aware:  
#Who we are.  
#What we have.  
\*To help where we can.  
+As God:  
=Loves.  
=Blesses.  
=Heals.  
-World.

Risen Christ is loose in the world.  
-Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
-Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

