

Bay City Wesleyan Church
April 19, 2020

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Sunday Morning 04-19-2020 ONLINE

We are champions of hope on a mission with the Holy Spirit. We are convinced that since Jesus took the worst this broken world could dish out and overcame it all, he can help anyone, anywhere make it through any day.

<http://bible.com/events/7204451>

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Champions of Hope

New here? Click on the link below to find out how to join our church's Facebook group -- Champions of Hope.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/infusinghope>

Online Giving with Tithe.ly

Please, set up your account at Tithe.ly or download the Tithe.ly app for your phone. Follow the directions given at the website or in the app.

Once you've set up your account with Tithe.ly, click on the link to worship Jesus by giving to his church. If you'd prefer to mail a check to the church, our address is--Bay City Wesleyan Church 506 W North Union Street Bay City MI 48706

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=1331999>

The Sunday following Easter often feels like a "Gray Day." This year it feels bleak and black not merely gray.

What have you lost because of COVID-19?

The afternoon of the first Easter seemed bleak and black to two grieving disciples walking the lonely road away from Jerusalem.

Luke 24:13-14 NIV

13</small> Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14</small> They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.

<https://bible.com/bible/111/luk.24.13-14.NIV>

Luke 24:15-16 NIV

15</small> As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; 16</small> but they were kept from recognizing him.

<https://bible.com/bible/111/luk.24.15-16.NIV>

Luke 24:17-24 NIV

17</small> He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. 18</small> One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" 19</small> "What

things?â€ he asked. â€About Jesus of Nazareth,â€ they replied. â€He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. <small>20</small> The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <small>21</small> but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. <small>22</small> In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <small>23</small> but didnâ€™t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <small>24</small> Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.â€

<https://bible.com/bible/111/luk.24.17-24.NIV>

We often cannot see beyond the pain of the present second.

Jesus was not and is not unmoved by human grief and loss. He stood outside the tomb of his dear friend Lazarus and wept. Jesus wept. His body shook with sobs and trembled with gut-wrenching pain.

Luke 24:25-27 NIV

<small>25</small> He said to them, â€How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <small>26</small> Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?â€

<small>27</small> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

<https://bible.com/bible/111/luk.24.25-27.NIV>

Jesus did not chastise them for how they felt BUT he challenged them to believe the promises God made.

Luke 24:28-32 NIV

<small>28</small> As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. <small>29</small> But they urged him strongly, â€Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.â€ So he went in to stay with them. <small>30</small> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <small>31</small> Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <small>32</small> They asked each other, â€Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?â€

<https://bible.com/bible/111/luk.24.28-32.NIV>

Faith is ALWAYS more relational than intellectual, more love than law.

A grieving couple on the road to Emmaus discovered Jesus when everything seemed to fall apart. Two heartbroken, heads spinning disciples found

Jesus when they could not tell up from down. Jesus located them when it seemed like it was all over.

DONâ€™T FORGET THIS:

You can start over even when you think itâ€™s all over.

Luke 24:33-35 NIVUK

<small>33</small> They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <small>34</small> and saying, â€˜It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.â€™ <small>35</small> Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognised by them when he broke the bread.

<https://bible.com/bible/113/luk.24.33-35.NIVUK>

Hope confidently believes that your future is worth making it through today. When it appears that all is lost and itâ€™s all over, hope declares this is NOT the end of my story! Hope has a name. His name is Jesus.

Five Psalms of Lament to read out loud

Psalm 13

Psalm 22

Psalm 42

Psalm 43

Psalm 142

Other Ideas for Expressing Your Feelings

1. Write letters to Jesus and read them aloud.
2. List three things that stimulated your hope at the end of the day (Jesus Sightings List).
3. Tell Jesus exactly what you feel out loud. Yell at him. He can take it. (He is the Ultimate Safe Person.)
4. Talk to a safe, â€œGod-with-skin-onâ€ person who will not try to fix you, offer you bumper sticker answers, or talk about it with others. This might be another person in our church family, or it may be a counselor.
5. Practice being a safe, â€œGod-with-skin-onâ€ person who will not try to fix others, offer them bumper sticker answers, or talk about it with others.