central
united methodist church monroe

"Go Quickly and Tell"
Matthew 28:1-15 (NRSVUE)
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April 5, 2026

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.

3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he[a] lay.

7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead,[b] and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." 8 So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

11 While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened. 12 After the priests[c] had assembled with the elders, they devised a plan to give

a large sum of money to the soldiers, [13] telling them, "You must say, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.'

[14] If this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." [15] So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story is still told among the Jews to this day.

The Gospel according to Matthew, as well as the other Gospels of Mark, Luke and John record a miraculous act of God, as God fulfills the promise of redemption and salvation for humankind. Matthew records the mysterious, marvelous and miraculous resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus, the Christ, from the dead.

It is Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (not the mother of Jesus, but of James and Joseph and the wife of Cleopas), who went to see the sepulcher, where Jesus was dead and buried, and became the first evangelists because the angel commissioned them to, "***Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead,[b] and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." [8] So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples."***

These women were the first to receive the Good News and the first to proclaim, preach it. Go quickly and tell . . .*Go*, the angel says to the women, you have seen and experienced the evidence and the reality of the resurrection for yourself. *Go*, you have received some important news and earth-shattering news, and you *cannot*, *must* not keep it to yourself. I know

you would love to stay here and continue to bask and marvel in this glorious moment, but you have to go!

Church, not only did *they* have to go, but *we* have to go today. We who believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths that God has raised Jesus from the dead must also go. We who are also spiritual witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus, must also go and tell the world that Jesus is not dead, but that he has been raised from the dead and is alive, and that he's still working miracles in our lives.

Do you realize that our primary role as followers of Christ is to be his witnesses and to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Do you know that you cannot witness to something that you have not experienced for yourself nor proclaim that which you do not know?

The angel tells the women that you can't stay here at the tomb.
You have to go, and not only do you have to go, but you also have to go quickly. Quickly, make haste. Quickly, go in a hurry;quickly; you don't have a moment to spare. There is an urgency about this matter. There are those followers of Jesus, his disciples who are hoping to hear some good news about Jesus.

There is an urgency; the world is in turmoil and chaos. People are suffering in their hopelessness and despair. Go quickly and tell them that Jesus is alive; that Jesus is real and that Jesus saves! People are dying inside and need hope. Go quickly and tell. People are lost and looking for direction.
Go quickly and tell.

As true believers in Jesus Christ, we don't have time to play games. We cannot afford to waste our time. We cannot risk someone seeing us not being serious about our faith and relationship with Christ. The cost is too high, for it could cost them eternal life.

Church, after being spiritually formed, re-formed and transformed during this Lenten season, and that should have happened to all of us, *this* Easter, we ought to commit ourselves to being more committed and effective witnesses and evangelists for the Lord. *We* ought to look at our own discipleship, and ask, "Do I really believe, and is Jesus really my Savior, my Deliverer, my healer?"

And if he is, ask yourself, "What am **I** doing to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ? What am **I** doing to proclaim the Good News, that Jesus is alive? What am **I** doing to bring someone to Christ?" *Go Quickly and Tell*

Whom should I tell and what am I supposed to tell, preacher? Tell those who find themselves in some dreadful place in life that despair may also mark a new beginning, a time of transformation and that despair is not permanent but temporary. Tell them that Jesus knew that the darkness of the tomb held the promise of eternal life. Tell your friends, family, co-workers, and the world, something that you ought to know for yourself.

Tell them that Jesus is our hope and the light of the world. Tell them that He was born to die for our sins, and not for our sins only but for the sins of the whole world. In the midst of what may appear to be despair and anguish, open yourself to new wisdom, new blessings, new life and new creation.

Tell some lost and hurting soul about the love, grace and mercy of Jesus, so that they can say,

Your grace and mercy brought me through
I'm living this moment because of You.

I want to thank You and praise You too
Your grace and mercy brought me through.

Thank You for saving a sinner like me.
To tell the world salvation is free.
There were times when I just didn't do right.
But You watched over me all day and night.

Your grace and mercy brought me through
I'm living this moment because of You
I want to thank You and praise You too
Your grace and mercy brought me through

Go quickly and tell that Jesus is alive! Go quickly and tell that Jesus is real! Go quickly and tell that Jesus saves, to the utmost Jesus saves!

Let the Church say, “Amen.”