

Sermon
Easter Vigil
Romans 6:3-11
Mark 16:1-8

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Mark 16:1-8

“We CAN do amazing things. Some one is going down and at the bottom is a bankruptcy waiting for them, and we pull them back, and just to hear that relief in their voice, is truly amazing.” I heard these words on a television commercial, about a debt consolidation company, the other day.

We CAN give you, “A Small Ray of Hope,” is the theme of that particular commercial. In today's world, “A Small Ray of Hope,” seems to be on every one's mind.

The flip side of that commercial, in which you don't hear, is “We CANNOT do an amazing thing, or We CANNOT pull someone back who is going down, or WE CANNOT give you 'A Small Ray of Hope.’”In other words, there is no guarantee.

“If I could just see, “A Little Glimpse of Light,” that's all, just, A Little Glimpse of Light,” someone said to me, yesterday, “then I'll know for sure that everything will be all right.”

Tonight, we all received that, “Little Glimpse of Light.” Tonight we all received that, “Small Ray of Hope.”

Picture it, the Paschal Candle is lit, “The Light of Christ” which is that special light, in which we are all called to follow as Baptized Christians, has now been, so freely given to each of us, tonight.

It is that special light that first enters into the darkness, and then guides each of us, as we entered into that same darkness, each holding our own, Glimpse of Light” and our own, “Ray of Hope.”

As we continue to journey through the darkness, we begin to notice that our light is also growing, and we are now able to see a little clearer where to place our footing. We are no longer stumbling and trying to feel our way.

As our light continues to grow, we are now able to reach our destination. We are now standing at that threshold which will take us across into that new light, which is brightly shining before us.

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We are all now standing and waiting with overwhelming anticipation, for that special moment, to arrive. That moment when we will all take those first big steps, across that threshold that will bring us out of the darkness, and bring us into the light.

Our journey has been, long and hard, and now we all stand face to face with that light, shining ever so brightly before us. We are all standing and waiting. O, what a joyous occasion it will be, when we finally get to cross over.

That special moment has finally arrived, and we all begin walking across that threshold into that light, making a joyful noise, and giving praise and thanksgiving to God. We are all now, children of the light.

Tonight is the night where God, not man, has shown us that God is the only one who CAN, and WILL, do amazing things for us. There are no hidden agendas and there is a definite GAURENTEE, and God stands behind every word.

We come together on this holy night, not only to celebrate our Lord Jesus passing over from death to life, but also to celebrate our passing over from darkness into the light.

A few days ago, a dear friend of mine, called me up on the telephone, extremely excited because they had just mailed off their last car payment. "Girl, you don't know how happy I feel. A huge weight has been lifted up off of my shoulders. I can finally breathe again."

This person had traveled down that dark path, and had reached that threshold that was separating them from entering into that light. A few days ago that person was finally able to cross over into that light.

What I was hearing on the telephone was their excitement as they were crossing over into the light. What they had been describing was that feeling of being born again. They was experiencing a rebirth at that moment.

This is what tonight is all about for us. Tonight is experiencing that rebirth as we all crossed over with our Lord Jesus from death into life. We have all been reborn. That huge weight, that we all had been carrying, has now been lifted up off of our shoulders. Tonight, we are all able to breathe again.

We heard in tonight's gospel reading, "When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled away."

Tonight, that heavy stone that had been preventing us from crossing over from the dark

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into the light has now been rolled away. No more stumbling, and fumbling around, wondering who will roll away that stone for us.

There may be some of you here tonight, who may still find yourselves traveling down a dark tunnel, but now, I hope and pray, that through this experience, here tonight, you may have now, experienced for yourselves, seeing a little glimpse of light just up ahead, or may now have received a little ray of hope, to carry with you, on your journey.

Our hearts have four chambers, and that Light of Christ, lives and shines in all four of those special chambers.

The Light of Christ, also lives, in those small unimportant rooms, as well. You know that room that has been kept, hidden away, or tucked away, in some deep dark corner, and the entrance to that room has been kept boarded up, for many years.

Why not let tonight be the night that heavy stone is allowed to crumble. Don't be afraid. Why not let tonight be the night that you allow that Light of Christ, to take you, gently by the hand, and slowly guide you to the entrance of that room.

Don't worry about who will roll back that stone, it has already been rolled back for you. Don't be afraid to look inside that room either. You will definitely be surprised of what you will find when you do look inside that room.

Surprise! There's Jesus! Did you know that Jesus has been sitting there waiting patiently for you to come into that room for many years? Allow that light to embrace you.

Allow that light to scrub down those old, dry, dark, walls and make that old abandoned room brand spanking new again.

Allow yourself some fun, and join in with the celebration of a new birth. Allow yourself to become reborn again, with a new heart and a new spirit.

As we heard earlier in one of tonight's readings, allow those old dry bones to come alive and rattle and shake, and make a joyful noise. It is because of this night, that you will never have to travel alone ever again.

There is a big celebration going on for the 50th anniversary of The Sound of Music, featuring, Julie Andrews. If you have never seen it, I hope you will have an opportunity to see it, either on DVD or on television. There is a song in that movie, in which I think is so appropriate for tonight, and I would like to leave you with those words.

When you walk through a storm, keep your head up high, and don't be afraid of the dark.

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At the end of the storm is a golden sky, and the sweet silver song of a Lark. Walk on through the wind, walk on through the rain, though your dreams be tossed and blown. Walk on, walk on, with hope in your heart, and you'll never walk alone.

My sisters and brothers, it is truly because of this night, that we will never walk alone ever again.