

Rev. Bridgett Mitchell St. Matthew's Chapel AME Church

EASTER SERVICE 4/5/26 "Why Are You Looking for the Living Among the Dead?"

Based on the Gospel of Luke 24:5, this Easter message explores the angel's question to the women at the empty tomb: *"Why do you look for the living among the dead?"* The sermon reflects on how the women came expecting death but encountered the risen Jesus Christ.

The message challenges believers to stop searching for life in spiritually dead places, to remember the promises of God even in seasons of grief, and to recognize that true resurrection power comes from the living presence of Christ—not simply from maintaining traditions or structures.

Easter proclaims that Jesus is alive, bringing hope, renewal, and spiritual life to individuals and the church. Because Christ is risen, we are invited to move from places of death into the power and promise of resurrection life.

4/12/26 After the Resurrection!

Acts of the Apostles 1:3 *"After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God."*

In this sermon, *After the Resurrection*, based on **Acts 1:3**, we explore what happened in the days following Jesus' resurrection and what it means for believers today. The resurrection was not just a moment of celebration; it was the beginning of transformation and mission for the disciples. During the forty days after rising from the grave, Jesus restored broken disciples, revealed deeper truths about the kingdom of God, and prepared them for their responsibility to share the gospel with the world.

This message highlights three key truths: **after the resurrection there is restoration**, as Jesus restored Peter after his denial; **after the resurrection there is revelation**, as Jesus opened the disciples' understanding of Scripture; and **after the resurrection there is responsibility**, as believers are called to live boldly and carry the message of hope to others.

The sermon reminds us that the resurrection is not just something we celebrate, it is power that calls us to rise, live with purpose, and participate in God's ongoing work in the world.

4/19/26 Revelation After the Resurrection

In this message based on the Gospel of Luke 24:25–32 *He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.*

28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. 29 But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. 32 They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

We explore how God brings clarity and understanding even in seasons of confusion. Through the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we are reminded that Jesus often walks with us even when we don't recognize Him.

The sermon emphasizes that revelation comes in the middle of confusion, through the Word of God, and ultimately leads to recognition and response. What begins as disappointment can turn into renewed faith when God opens our eyes.

This message encourages believers to trust that even when life doesn't make sense, God is still at work revealing His purpose, strengthening our faith, and leading us into a deeper understanding of His presence.

4/26/26 Responsibility After the Resurrection

In this message based on Acts of the Apostles 1:6–8 *Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”*

7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

We are reminded that the resurrection is not just something to celebrate, it is a call to action. Before ascending, Jesus commissions His disciples and promises them power through the Holy Spirit to become His witnesses.

The sermon emphasizes that **after the resurrection comes responsibility**. Believers are called to live out their faith boldly, share the message of Christ, and serve others with

purpose. The same power that raised Jesus is now at work in us, equipping us to impact the world.

This message challenges us to move beyond passive faith and step into our calling, living as active participants in God's mission.