

## 04.20.22 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

**Title:** “Easter Feelings”

**Scripture Reading:** [Mark 16:1-8](#)

**Reflection:** Rev. George Vink

Once again, we celebrated Christ’s resurrection. Once again, we headed back to our routines. And, once again we wonder, “Did it make a difference? Does it...today?” We sang “*Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?*” and if we didn’t, we should have. Although we have not stood to watch a crucifixion, most of us have stood by an open grave or an open or closed casket. The feelings are real and may linger a while. The fact is the feelings are so real.

Imagine the emotions of Mother Mary and Mary Magdalene as they “saw where he was laid.” ([Mk 15:47](#)) Imagine their feelings of wanting the sabbath to be over. Did they go to their synagogue? What did their rabbi say about what had happened to Jesus? Or did he avoid it? Now, imagine yourself having watched a loved one suffering and breathing his last. Deeply felt feelings or emotions, for sure. Then, after a few days, you go to the funeral home to bring the right clothes and check the arrangements. You get there, and once inside, you’re met by a man in a new suit, and he announces, “Sorry! She’s not here. She has risen!” Shocked? Feelings?

Reading Mark carefully, you’ll hear feelings galore. As they approached the tomb, the women were wondering. “Who’s going to roll the huge stone?” A huge, vital detail for women coming to express their love. They had a miserable sabbath, waiting, worrying, and wanting to do something, not just feel drained. Seeing the young man, they were alarmed, understandably so. Now what? Unlike the disciples who had scattered in all directions, these brave women were channeling their feelings into gracious acts of devotion.

But now, instead of embalming Jesus’ body, they received orders, “Go, tell his disciples and Peter.” How did these women react? “Trembling and bewildered,” they fled and were afraid.

Strong feelings! Hard to sort out sometimes. Life and death involve feelings, both delightful and dreadful ones. Death forces us to deal with ours. Also, Peter was singled out. He needed to hear it. He had betrayed Jesus. Had he “gone to synagogue”? Imagine his feelings. Fear for sure!

Post-Easter, to experience feeling its joy we need the assurance Paul stated in [Romans 6:5](#) and “be united with Christ in His resurrection.” And when we are united, we can do what the women were told to do, “...go tell!” A real resurrection, surprising and bewildering as it may be, provides a needed message of forgiveness. Just ask Peter! It’s the message of Christ’s love as expressed on the cross and an ongoing message of hope, “He’s going ahead of you.”

It’s the message of Peter’s gospel for the people where we live, eagerly shared by those trembling with hope who sing, “We serve a living Savior, He’s.....” Do you feel it too?

**Prayer:**

Jesus, Thank You for singling out Peter. He needed your personal touch and reminder. Help us to see those who need that kind of personal touch, that loving word of encouragement. You've blessed us with feelings that enrich our lives. Help us use them to minister love, forgiveness, and compassion. I am, we are, so like the women at the tomb, often bewildered and frightened. Assure us that we have the message of love and hope in Your Holy Name. Amen.

**Action Item for the Day/Week:**

Be committed to looking for someone today, whether in your church's prayer line, your neighborhood or at home, who needs to hear from you an encouraging word of hope and love. We all need to be singled out some time! It gives a feeling of assurance and acceptance.

**Songs for today:**

[Were You There?](#)

[Were You There?](#)

[I Serve a Risen Savior](#)