

Daily Morning Message

St Paul United Church of Christ

5312 Old Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45247

Allen M Fluent, Pastor

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Daily Lectionary Readings    Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
    Song of Solomon 3:1-11  
    Mark 16:1-8

Today's Scripture Verse:    *So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. (Mark 16:8)*

What it means:                This is the last known original verse in the Gospel of Mark. To it several ancient manuscripts have added a shorter or longer ending, but we do not know whether or not the original author wrote either of these. Verse 8 conveys sharply the shock and confusion that may have been the initial response to the emptiness following Jesus' death. Verses 1-7 are interesting, because they are in the typical form of an announcement by a heavenly messenger. The figure appears (an angel of light), the women are frightened, the angel says Don't be afraid, then gives them a message that re-directs their thinking and sends them forth on a mission.

Our time of reflection:    What other stories in the Bible can you think of where people are surprised by God or God's messenger? Think about Abraham, Moses, Mary... Have you ever felt surprised by God with a message you weren't expecting?

