

the most foolish in their approach to Jesus and the challenges His earthly ministry presented them? What challenges do you experience because of Jesus' ministry? Write your thoughts here, asking God for guidance and peace in relationship to the good news of Jesus' resurrection.

### **Thursday, April 11**

Read Philippians 2:6-11 and I Corinthians 1:18-25. The resurrection confounds the "wisdom of the world." Paul recognizes that Jesus' ministry demonstrated Jesus' courage and strength in speaking truth to the powerful people of his day. That may not always seem wise; however, true strength comes from a righteousness based on a solid relationship with God. Jesus knew that personal wholeness and integrity is based on God's unconditional love for humanity and God's desire for each of us to experience the wholeness and peace available through our relationship with God. Think about how Jesus' message turned the wisdom of the world upside down. Write your thoughts here.

### **Friday, April 12**

Read John 20:1-18 once again. It's a fantastic story! It's a story of life over death wholeness over fragmented lives and peace over chaos. As Jesus was foolish in his ministry, each of us is called to demonstrate a wisdom and courage that may look like foolishness to the world. Given your gifts, talents and blessings from God, what might you be called to do for God's kingdom on earth? What might God be asking you to do that may look like foolishness in today's world? Contemplate these questions and write your thoughts here. Be blessed!

## **Message Notes – April 7, 2024**

### ***Jesus is Risen! No Kidding!\****

- I. There is actually a \_\_\_\_\_ explanation connecting April Fool's Day with Jesus and the last days of His life on earth.
  - A. It was thought that Jesus' opponents intended to make a \_\_\_\_\_ out of him.
  - B. But in the end, Jesus had the last laugh as \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ could not contain him or his message.
- II. Who, after all, is the \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ fool? A whole bunch of people from our scriptures come to mind.
  - A. Is the fool Pontius Pilate, the \_\_\_\_\_ procurator?
    - B. Perhaps the April or Easter fools are Annas, the \_\_\_\_\_ priest, and his fellow \_\_\_\_\_ priest, and son-in-law, Caiaphas.
    - C. Maybe the fool was Herod, who really wanted to see Jesus perform a \_\_\_\_\_ as if Jesus were a \_\_\_\_\_.
    - D. Perhaps the April or Easter fools were the \_\_\_\_\_ guarding the tomb.
    - E. Perhaps the fool is Peter, the big \_\_\_\_\_ as he was called.

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\*John 20:1-18

F. Perhaps the greatest fools are all of \_\_\_\_\_.

- III. Pastor Kaylor suggested the greatest April or Easter fool is \_\_\_\_\_. He is the Fool of Easter. He is the Trickster as it were.
- A. Jesus shunned a \_\_\_\_\_ lifestyle.
  - B. For friends he had tax collectors, \_\_\_\_\_, lepers, fishermen, the poor and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - C. Jesus knew that there is \_\_\_\_\_ in being a somebody, but there is \_\_\_\_\_ in being a nobody.
- IV. On Easter, "God made foolish the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_" to use the words of the Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 1:20).
- A. Paul also wrote, It was Jesus who "\_\_\_\_\_ himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness, and being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of \_\_\_\_\_ -- even \_\_\_\_\_ on a cross" (Philippians 2:6-8).
    - 1. But that was not the \_\_\_\_\_ of the story.
    - 2. Paul continued, "Therefore, God also highly \_\_\_\_\_ him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, ... and every tongue should confess that Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11).
  - B. It's ok to be a \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus also. To discover the great and seemingly \_\_\_\_\_ things we can do for God's kingdom on earth.

## ***Daily Meditations and Study Guide***

The following is a daily meditation and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

## **Monday, April 8**

What is your earliest memories of April Fools Day? Most likely it was a prank pull on you or someone you knew during your early school days. Hopefully the pranks you experienced or fooled others with were friendly and benign; that no real harm was done to anyone. Hopefully, no severe prank was played on you this past week on April 1. Think about how playing pranks can deepen friendships or cause them harm. Write your thoughts here.

## **Tuesday, April 9**

Read John 20:1-18. You may want to read the resurrection stories from other gospels for comparison (Matthew 28:1-7; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12). Most likely you have your own preconceived notions of what that first Easter morning was like, based on your church experience, movies or other media presentation of the resurrection of Jesus the Christ. What do you cherish most about the resurrection narrative? What portions confound you? Is there anything new that you picked up on from these recent readings about the resurrection? What are your earliest memories of the resurrection? Meditate upon these questions and write your thoughts here.

## **Wednesday, April 10**

Throughout the message several Biblical people were mentioned as possible candidates to be April Fools because of the resurrection. This may be a good time to look for those candidates in scripture passages that precede the scriptures mentioned in yesterday's devotion. What information can you find about Pontius Pilate, Annas, Caiaphas, Herod, the guards at the tomb, Peter and the other disciples? Who do you think acted