

SERMON FOR APRIL 21, 2013

The First Chinese Church of Christ in Hawai'i UCC

4th Sunday in Easter/Good Shepherd Sunday

Scripture: Act 9:36-43 (Focus); Psalm 23

Message: **"Easter 4: Let's Get Up & Live in the Power of Our Risen Christ!"**

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GATHERING IN THE WORD OF GOD

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

This week's focus scripture from Acts 9 is a deeply personal story of one woman—treasured by her community—being brought to life as the Apostle Peter follows Jesus' example and power; and this public story that shows the place of prayer and worship shifting from the Temple to the upper rooms of the people where bread and wine are shared and miracles begin to unfold!

Acts 9:36-43 New International Version (2011)

³⁶ In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. ³⁷ About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. ³⁸ Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!" ³⁹ Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. ⁴⁰ Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. ⁴² This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. ⁴³ Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

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Psalm 23 A psalm of David (NIV 2011)

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, ³ he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

DOING THE WORD OF GOD

So what is the Word of God for all of us on this 4th Sunday of Easter?

- 1. ONE: WE ARE CALLED TO GET UP (!) AND LIVE IN THE POWER OF OUR RISEN SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST!**
- 2. TWO: WE ARE EMPOWERED, SANCTIONED, ENABLED AND ENDOWED TO OVERCOME ANYTHING THAT CAN HARM, CAN HINDER AND HOLD US BACK!**
- 3. THREE: WE ARE TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER!**

SENT IN THE WORD OF GOD

Story: Jeremy's Egg