

THE FIRST EASTER, THE DISCIPLES STAYED AT HOME

JOHN 20:19-20

The first Easter, Jesus' followers (all but three women and two men) stayed home. Then, while they were there, Jesus came and *met them where they were!* That's when they experienced Easter. Easter is Easter when and where you meet the risen Jesus. Even when we can't gather together in worship as the Body of Christ, *it is still Easter!*

SEEK AND YOU WILL FIND

JER. 29: 13-14

Just as the Israelites experienced separation, we may also feel isolated and exiled at this time. God promised us that if we seek wholeheartedly, we will find! He will meet us where and when we are!

CONNECTING THE DOTS

The meaning of Christmas does not become clear until Easter. We can't hear Gabriel's proclamation without knowing how they will be fulfilled. Emmanuel ("God *with* us") becomes the Lamb of God to save us.

Try reading these verses in the order below:

- Isaiah 9:6-7
- Luke 1:31-33, 2:10-11
- Isaiah 53:1-6
- John 19:28-30

Sing *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* to the tune of *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

Forest Hills

Prayer Vigil 2020

COVID-19 has led to an unprecedented experience for us in our country & church - social distancing. Most of us will feel it most keenly when it comes to church. We may feel this is a brand new idea - **Easter at Home** - but it turns out that Jesus already had this covered!

Here is some guidance for this trying time...

EASTER ISN'T AT CHURCH!

Perhaps we think of Easter too much as something we celebrate by "going to church." Easter isn't at church. In fact, that's the point! Easter is when we meet the risen Jesus in our own lives and receive His resurrecting power. Maybe it is good to stay home!

WE ARE "LOCKED IN" PHYSICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY

MATTHEW 28: 6-7

We are "locked in" in many ways: not just staying at home. Do you have sins or past choices that limit your freedom? Do you have death in relationships or dreams that keep you "grounded?" **Hear the Easter news!** "Jesus has been raised from the dead, as He said. Tell His followers that He is going ahead of you ... and you will see Him" (Matt. 28:6-7). The risen Jesus meets us where we are locked up!

