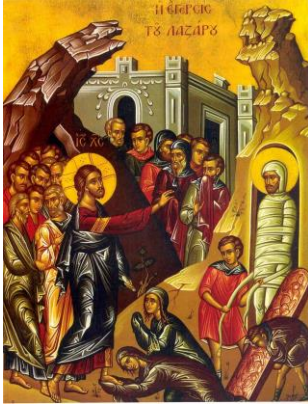


# Living in the Resurrection

## Sermon Notes for April 2, 2017 at Brentwood



### Ps 130 and John 11:1-45

**The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him and let him go.” (John 11:44)**

### Provocative Ponderings that Call Forth Our Potential in Christ

- By now, you know how much I am fascinated by Orthodox icons as they imagine various Biblical stories – they make the Bible visible – two aspects of this one intrigued me this week – first, it focuses on the unbinding of Lazarus – the freeing of Lazarus from being wrapped in death – and, as Jesus said, “Let him go.” – the language would have reminded John’s hearers and readers of central words in the Exodus story – “Let my people go.” – in the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus of Nazareth, we are freed from the power of death to live and serve, going out into the world revived to share the love that gave us new life – second, the expressions on the faces of the men in this icon suggested a kind of stunned confusion – what’s going on here? – this is something we’ve never seen before – this must be some divine miracle – now what do we do? – on the faces of the women, interestingly enough, we see more of a humbled gratitude
- I draw attention to the responses in the faces in this icon because they capture powerfully the wide range of responses to the resurrection and its invitation to live in the power of that assertion of God’s love, even today – perhaps especially today - the dominant feel is of confusion – there’s clear rejection – there’s humble and grateful acceptance – it’s easy, especially in a culture so focused on the science of surfaces, of the things we can see, and touch, and hear, and analyze, to dismiss the resurrection and the new life that flows from it as fanciful delusion – as in Paul’s day, it’s a scandal and a stumbling block – but it is the central act of the world’s redemption – it is God’s way of reconciling the creation to its original relationship and purpose with the Holy Trinity – what living in the power of the resurrection might mean for us today will be the focus of our ponderings over this Easter season in 2017

### At this point in our ponderings, then ...

What I’d like to leave you with this morning, as we gather to be nourished to flourish at the Lord’s table, is the Exodus theme of being freed to go – to go into the world with new life gifted to us by God so that we may again become true blessings to those we meet, whoever they are and whatever their condition – in humble gratitude, by everything we do and say, we become for them a witness to the power of living in the resurrection

Notes for a sermon preached by Brian Fraser,  
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