

Sermon Title: **Empty Tomb**

Bible: John 20:1-10

Where & When: Easter Sunday Service at Gilroy UMC on April 21st, 2019

Audience: about 35 English-speaking Church Members

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, thank you so much for giving us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection! Thank you so much for giving us the joy of life! When I am weak, when I am broken, I see Jesus' Cross and Resurrection! Please use my lips for your people to share the joy and hope! In Jesus' name. Amen.

1. Donuts

Do you like donuts? When you want to buy donuts, where do you go in Gilroy? Once a month, I have a circuit meeting, which is the meeting of 7 United Methodist church pastors in the region around Gilroy. When I hosted this circuit meeting at Gilroy, I wanted to prepare coffee and donuts. At one local donut place, I purchased one dozen donuts. I do not know, but maybe it was one of my dreams, having coffee and donuts with friends.

To me, the donut is kind of an interesting food in a couple of ways. Do American police officers love donuts? Is this true or a stereotype? (you might educate me more after worship). Can you imagine your favorite donut in your mind? Does that

donut have a hole? Not all donuts have holes. But most donuts have holes. What made donuts have holes? Why do they have holes? I want to fill up the hole to eat more! I have heard some theories about why there is a hole in donut. But its true origin and invention is still debated, right?

Anyway, I like donuts, because they are sweet, and because they are good friends with coffee. And one reason why I like the donut is that it has holes like me.

2. Holes & Emptiness

As donuts have holes, I have some emptiness. When I miss some Korean food, I can cook or go to a Korean restaurant. Usually, I ask my wife to cook. When I wanted to buy a TV, I was able to save money and buy one nice TV. However, when I miss someone, that person remains as a hole. No one can fill up this emptiness. When I was a college student, my grandfather passed away from lung cancer. Every summer, I went his house to spend most of my vacations. I learned a lot from him; how to fish, how to eat seafood like sea eel with bones, and how to be passionate.

Now I understand that my mom was experiencing empty nest syndrome when I went to one boarding high school. Because there were not enough high schools in my hometown, and because I was smart, I went to a prestigious boarding high school. It takes one hour from my house to get to the school by car. My mom

started to learn how to drive, because she wanted to see me many times. About 20 years ago, there was no cellular phone. The only way to see me was to just come to the school. At first, I did not understand my mom. I was surprised at seeing her without any notice. One of her challenges was a long tunnel on the way. I was told that she drove back and forth several times to get comfortable enough to get through the long and dark tunnel. Finally, she made it!

I know many holes in our society: poverty and homelessness, immigration and foreigners, health care and diseases, hatred and fear, violence and war. In front of the big holes of these injustices, I feel discouraged, because I do not know what to do. It looks like I cannot do anything. Sometimes, I doubt; can I make a difference?

3. Empty Tomb

In today's Gospel reading, the tomb was empty. Mary and two of the disciples did not understand and know that Jesus is risen! Mary was concerned about where Jesus was. She might have run to the two disciples with tears. Two disciples, Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, arrived at the empty tomb, but they did not know what to do. They might have been afraid. They might have been discouraged. They did not know how to handle the empty tomb. But they looked for each other, and they were together.

We are here, because we know that the empty tomb is not the end of the story. It is another beginning; He is risen! God will make the story continue.

Sometimes, I want to go fishing with my grandfather. Sometimes, I do not know how to accept my mom's empty nest. In many times, I feel powerless when I face social injustice. These are not the end. I see the hope through the empty tomb. The tomb is still empty. I will not complain about the donut hole. I enjoy the donut with a hole.

I will rejoice in my life with many holes, my emptiness, because his resurrection is ours, yours and mine. Like the Easter lily's trumpet-shaped flower, I want to shout out; Christ is Risen!!

Closing Prayer

Gracious God, from the darkness, from the grave, He is risen!! Your victory is ours. Your resurrection is ours. Please lead us to your hope! Please guide us to serve and love one another in your kingdom. In Jesus' name. Amen!

Possible Qs.

1. Do you have any food that has your own story? Can you share it?
2. Do you have any holes or emptiness in your life? Can you share one of them?
3. How to handle your emptiness?