

Sermon Title: **“To my Father and your Father, to my God and your God”**

Bible: **John 20:1-18**

Where & When: at Gilroy UMC on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021

Audience: about 30 YouTube Viewers

## **Opening Prayer**

Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. This time, please open our eyes to celebrate our Lord's resurrection. Please be with my lips and mouth in your love and grace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## **1. Three Disciples**

Today's Scripture Reading is about the first Easter Sunday. It was still dark, and there were three disciples, who were looking for Jesus. Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter, and the other disciple. Mary was the first one who found the empty tomb. She thought that they had taken away Jesus, and she ran to the disciples and shared this news. Peter and the other disciple began running together to the tomb. The other disciple arrived at the tomb first, but he could not go into the tomb. Peter came a little later, but he went into the tomb first, and saw the linen and the cloth. They were looking for Jesus. But they could not find Jesus.

## **2. When Jesus Called by Name**

Mary was weeping and looking for Jesus. Mary saw two angels in the tomb, and she saw Jesus, but she did not recognize that it was Jesus. She thought that he was a gardener. When Jesus called her by name: “Mary,” she recognized that he was Jesus. Like the good shepherd, our Lord Jesus Christ calls us by name.

### **3. To My Brothers, to My Father and Your Father, to My God and Your God**

Furthermore, Jesus redefined the relationship with the disciples. Jesus said to Mary, “Go to my brothers,” “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.” Jesus called the disciples as His brothers and sisters. Jesus called God, as his father and our father, and as his God and our God. We are not only the disciples of Jesus Christ, but also sisters and brothers in Christ. Let us look around. We are God’s family.

On Easter Sunday, our Lord Jesus Christ is risen! We celebrate our Lord’s resurrection. I also hope for us to celebrate our new identity as God’s family.

Especially, today, we will have two Sacraments together: the Sacrament of Baptism/Confirmation and the Sacrament of the Holy Communion. We are so joyful to have God’s table with all of our sisters and brothers in Christ. We are so thankful to have our new sisters in our church family. On this Easter Sunday in 2021, let us celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our new identity of God’s family, and our new sisters. It is Happy Easter!

#### **Closing Prayer**

O Lord, thank you so much for what you have done for us. We celebrate this Easter Sunday. It is all because of you. In Jesus’ name. Amen.