



The First United Methodist Church of LaGrange

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021 • 11:00 am

Welcome to First Methodist!

GOD CAN HEAL A BROKEN HEART, BUT YOU MUST GIVE HIM ALL THE PIECES

We have all had our hearts broken in some way—maybe by disappointment, fear, shame, rejection, or ridicule—I certainly have. I say to you, as your preacher and friend, “I am sorry.” I really am! I care about the hurt you have gone through, and God cares about it, too. In fact, He hurts with you!

What was God doing when you were hurting? He was hurting, too, like Jesus weeping with Mary and Martha at the grave of his friend, Lazarus. In fact, it is in the midst of your pain that God is closest to you, whether or not you realize it.

King David confidently promised, **“The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. The righteous person may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all”** (Psalm 34:18-19).

How does He do that? He saves you by giving you a heart transplant. He promises, **“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh”** (Ezekiel 36:26).

It is as if God says,

“For the heart that is guilty, I will give you a heart that is forgiven. For the heart that is resentful, I will give you a heart that is full of peace. For the heart that is anxious, I will give you a heart that is confident. For the heart that is lonely, I will give you a heart full of love. For the heart that is bitter and angry, I will give you a heart that is forgiving, loving, and generous. Let me do a heart transplant in you. I will heal you and set you free!”

Why do you and I need to be set free? Because, without Christ, we are enslaved. We are enslaved to the opinions and expectations of other people. We are enslaved to the secular trends of society. We are enslaved to painful memories. We are enslaved to daily pressures. We are enslaved to debilitating fears.

The Lord Jesus invites you to open your heart to Him and give Him all of your brokenness. In His first sermon, Jesus claimed His Messianic mandate recorded by the Prophet Isaiah:

“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair” (Isaiah 61:1-3).

Your heart may have been broken, but it does not have to stay broken. Our Risen Lord wants to do so much more with your life—more than you can even imagine. Will you let Him? God can heal your broken heart, but you must give Him all the pieces.

Remember how much I love you ...
It’s an honor to be your Senior Minister!

Dr. John Beyers

We’re Better Together!