SERIES: WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? TEXT: various SPEAKER: John Stevenson

What Difference Does It Make If Jesus Rose from the Grave?

Coordinate questions:

1. Imagine that you are Mary Magdalene going with other women to Jesus’ tomb on Sunday. It’s not quite dawn. What are you thinking? What are you feeling? What do you whisper to the others as you walk together?

2. Read John 20:1-18. What is it like for you, Mary, when you find the tomb empty? What is it like to report that to Peter and John? What is it like when you meet Jesus and hear him call your name? What difference does it make to you that he is risen?

3. Imagine that you are the apostle John on Sunday morning. Mary Magdalene has come running breathless to tell you and Peter that she and other women went to the tomb early and Jesus’ body was gone. [When Mary told you this, she had not yet seen Jesus alive.] You and Peter run to the tomb to see for yourself. What racing thoughts are going through your head as you outrun Peter?

4. You, John, see the empty tomb and believe that Jesus has risen. What difference does it make to you?

5. Imagine that you are the disciple Thomas on Sunday one week after Easter. You’ve heard the other 10 of the 11 tell you they have seen Jesus risen from the grave. But you weren’t there. You do not think they’re lying. You don’t know what to think. But you do know that he was crucified. And you know that when the Romans crucify someone, they make sure the person crucified is dead. And John himself, who now says that he has seen Jesus alive, says that one of the soldiers pierced Jesus with a spear before they took him down, and he was already dead. What are you feeling?

6. Read John 20:26-29. What difference does it make to you, Thomas, that he is risen?

7. Even though you live 2000 years after these events, what do you have in common with the women who went to the tomb? Or with John? Or with Thomas? As far as the impact on you of the resurrection of Jesus?