



DATE: April 26, 2020 (3rd Sunday of Easter)
SCRIPTURE: Acts 1:1-14
TITLE: Are we there yet?

The full name we have for the fifth book of the New Testament is “The Acts of the Apostles,” and while that is a perfectly good and descriptive name, I think it should have a different name. While our four Gospels are the good news of Jesus Christ, Acts could be considered “The Good News of the Church.”

The Gospel of Luke tells the story of how Jesus fulfilled his mission as the Christ, Acts tells the story of how this unlikely crew of 11 apostles and 120 followers fulfilled theirs.

The book of Acts starts roughly where the Gospel of Luke ended. Jesus is risen! And he has been for forty days. The disciples, who had witnessed Jesus ministry, death, and resurrection, were now wondering what might be next. So they ask, “Are you going to restore the Kingdom now, Jesus?” In other words, they ask, “Are we there yet?”

Like a group of impatient kids in the back of the car, they think this must be the time. They have gone so far, this must be the destination. Like so many parents, Jesus basically says, “I’ll tell you when we get there.” Then however, Jesus does something that no parent driving their kids should ever do. He gets out of the car and lets them drive. It is time for Jesus to leave for good, but he gives them their mission, and he tells them to wait on the Holy Spirit.

Being told to wait is never easy, yet sometimes patiently waiting is an act of faith. Still, they are called to simply wait, they are called to start building community.

When Jesus ascends to the heavens, the disciples are left staring up into the sky. Then two young men ask them “Why are you looking in heavens?” While

we are called to wait, this is not a passive waiting. We who follow Jesus must do more than simply stare up into heaven and wait for him to come back.

Instead of looking to the sky for Jesus, they start to look at each other. They become the Body of Christ by building their community. They devote themselves to prayer. They get busy with purposeful waiting.

We the Church are in this difficult time of waiting, but let’s stay mindful that the waiting we do is with a purpose. It is with prayer, and we have the privilege of waiting with and for the Holy Spirit. As we wait, we may build community, not staring into the sky, but looking around at one another.

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