SERMON OUTLINE FOR EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 5, 2015

"We Are Going Home"

Isaiah 55:6-13

INTRODUCTION: "Almost home... home, home on the range... when Johnnie comes marching home... there's no place like home."

I. EASTER MEANS WE ARE GOING HOME

- A. Today we explore this from the time of 587 BC: Israel in Babylonian exile
- B. These exiles were far from home & they yearned for homecoming
- C. We are far from home, from our Heavenly Father, & we need a homecoming (Luke 15)

II. GOD PROMISES TO BRING HIS PEOPLE HOME IN SHALOM, PEACE

- A. This is true for exiles in Babylon & for us today (Isaiah 55:12)
- B. God used the imperial policy of Persia & their king Cyrus (who conquered Babylon) to bring His people home
- C. God's Word was powerful & God kept His Word (Isaiah 55;12)

III. GOD'S WORD TOOK ON FLESH & BLOOD IN JESUS SO WE CAN GO HOME

- A. "The Word became flesh & dwelt among us" (John 1:14)
- B. Jesus the Living Word knew clearly what it was like to be away from home as He went to the cross (Luke 9:58; Matthew 27:46)
- C. Easter declares: God's Word is powerful, God Keeps His Word, Jesus the Living Word is risen indeed... and because of this we exiles are going home



IV. EASTER MEANS WE ARE GOING HOME

- A. While we live in this sinful world, we exiles feel "homeless" or "homesick" in various ways & we long for a lasting home.
- B. Easter declares: we have a sure & certain home
 - 1. Our Lord Jesus has prepared for us a heavenly mansion (John 14:2)
 - 2. We prodigal sons & daughters will be welcomed home (Luke 15:24)
 - 3. This desire for a homecoming God has placed in each our hearts (Ecclesiastes 3:11)
- C. The amazing story of *Pootsie the Parakeet* helps us see this in a fresh, new way...

CONCLUSION:

On this Easter Sunday, we join in singing the hymn of all creation –

"For you shall go out in joy & be led forth in peace..."

"He is risen, He is risen indeed..."

"Hallelujah..."

"We are going home!"