



Ravensworth

BAPTIST CHURCH

June 12, 2022 | Trinity Sunday

Matthew 28:16–20

Oh The Places You Will Go!

Rev. Dr. Leah Grundset Davis, preaching

My Saturdays are filled with one thing these days: soccer. As are my Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings. I can't tell you that I foresaw becoming a soccer mom. But a real confession: I love it. I love seeing my kids play a sport they love, with their friends, and this community of people who we now know really well. This community started around our kids' soccer, but it's become wider as a little world often does—celebrating birthdays, providing meals upon the deaths of a family members, running errands during COVID diagnoses, picking up kids for soccer carpool, and being another adult cheering on other kids besides your own.

One of the biggest names in soccer is the now-retired Abby Wambach, the highest all-time scorer for the Women's National Team, author, and speaker.

In May, Abby Wambach was invited to be the commencement speaker at Loyola Marymount College. [Her speech](#) was one that I encourage all to watch and we will share that on social media and via newsletter later today. You know how a commencement speech normally goes—inspirational, instructional, achievable.

She had a three-point, Trinitarian address for the students that day at the Catholic institution of higher learning, three points, that started with a reminder that Jesus loved to overturn tables and to remember that as they sit at tables in the future where decisions happen. Her three points, in summary¹---

1. **Dig deeper and Demand numbers.** When you graduate and go on to more school or to work, see where the people or institution invests around that table. Determine if that research and information aligns with you are. She shared that she receives a LOT of speaking invitations during Pride Month, the month of June. And before she accepts any engagements, she asked those organizations how they support trans kids the rest of the year, how many queer people they employ in upper managements.
2. **At every table you find yourself, get aligned and stay aligned.** She's been invited to many tables and after one particular event, she was reminded that having a seat at the table meant to stay in line with every woman who was not yet at the table, not those in power who were at the table. She said, "It's tempting when we make it to the table to do everything we can to stay there, instead of remembering we are there to use our seat."
3. **Live your solidarity out loud.** Abby Wambach talked about her work with the national soccer program, the success of the women's soccer team and the disproportionate amount of money that goes to the men's soccer team. On a call one day, she brought up the inequality of the pay structure between men and women's soccer. And after she presented, not one man spoke up to affirm her ideas. But then, she started to get texts and emails from the men who had been silent on the call. Texts that said, "Hey Abby, that was brave. Loved your courage,

¹ Abby Wambach, [Commencement Address](#), Loyola Marymount University, May 7, 2022.

I've got your back." Her colleagues wanted solidarity points for silent, secret, too late solidarity, she said, continuing, They wanted solidarity without risk, but there is no such thing as solidarity without risk! When a brave soul at the table dares to speak up for those not at the table, do not let her fall down and then privately swear you have her back. Catch her in real time. She concluded her points by saying, "Let us decide there is no such thing as silent solidarity."

In the passage from Matthew, Jesus is giving his own commencement speech. These are the very last verses in the Gospel of Matthew. This is the big sending forth into the world for the reader, for the disciple, and for us. It's Jesus' address to the disciples and it goes like this, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Jesus wanted the disciples to remember what they've learned together in community, and go out into the world—the many worlds they inhabit—classrooms, soccer teams, faith communities, basketball teams, summer camps, places where you might catch your breath for a year, and go and be the good news. Go and live it.

They had seen Jesus loving people, healing people, calling others to repentance, flipping the tables of injustice and power. They knew how to be the good news, they were just receiving a blessing to go and be who they already were.

It probably seemed daunting, when Jesus said, go into all the world.

Abby Wambach finished up her address, saying, “The world out there is big. Sometimes when I watch the news it feels too big, too broken, too far gone. It’s hard to know where to start. Jewish wisdom tells us ‘do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.’

As you head out into the big world, forget about the big world. But don’t you dare abandon the small worlds. The ones you can see, and hear, and touch. The only ones you’re obligated to change are the small ones. The office you’re in, the relationships you’re in, the Uber you’re in, the table you’re at, the community you’re in.

Wambach concluded, So for God’s sake, don’t spend your life watching the news. It’s all bad news. Instead, be the news. In fact, you’re supposed to be the good news. The good news is that there are worlds out there waiting to be forever changed by you.”²

RBC, here’s the challenge: Like Jesus said, go out into all the world, the small worlds, the big world, and proclaim that gospel that you know to be true!

Amen.

² ibid.