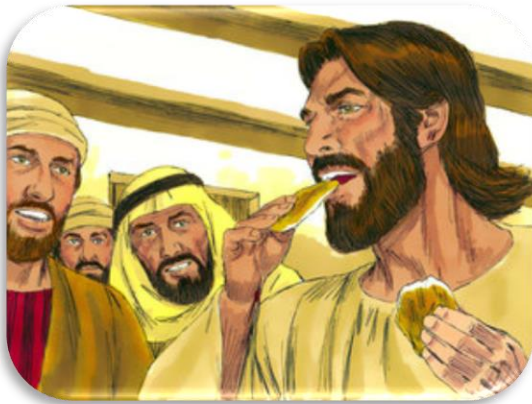


Worship at Home – 18th April 2021

The Third Sunday of Easter

Prepared by Rev Gareth Erlandson, Curate



Prayer to start

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples
with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Bible Reading (Luke 24:36-48)

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.

He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Thought

This week's story starts the same way as last week's. This is Luke's account of the locked room on the evening of the first Easter day. At the beginning, the disciples were lonely – they had not yet met the risen Lord.

How are you feeling at the moment?

If you're lonely please do get in touch with one of us.

After Jesus shows the disciples his nail marks, Luke's story diverges from the version we heard from John last week. John pressed fast-forward to Jesus' meeting with Thomas the following week. Luke tells the tale of Jesus eating the broiled fish with the disciples. This is important because the disciples believed this Jesus to be a ghost. In Jewish tradition, ghosts do not eat. The fact Jesus consumes the fish, proves this is his actual body brought back to life. The disciples aren't alone anymore. Christ is truly with them.

Who do you know who might be lonely?

Who needs to know the love of Jesus in their lives?

The passage ends with Jesus instructing the disciples to witness to his dying and rising – to the forgiveness of sins for those who repent. But witnessing also means ensuring people are not left feeling alone. Christ commissioned us to take his love into the lives of *all*.

How could you reach out with Christ's love to people who are lonely?

Could you make a phone call, pop something in the post, or have a little chat over a garden fence?

Prayers to end

We are witnesses, to the love God has poured into us. We are witnesses of God's love, sharing it with each person we meet. We are witnesses to everyone we encounter, little children like us, sisters and brothers in God's family. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please do get in touch if you want to talk about anything.

Remember, Sunday worship is taking place weekly at Hope Church at 11am (Eucharist on 18th April - book with Liz on 01978 762862).

The next Sunday Eucharist in Emmanuel is at 9:30am on Sunday 18th April (book with Jane on 01978 761458) and the next Eucharist in St John's is at 11am on Sunday 25th April (book with Ann on 07564 286811).

God bless – Adam (01978 760439) and Gareth (07731 827988).