

Bulletin for Sunday **19th April 2020**

Dear Friends

While I am really missing being able to worship with you all in person, I am glad that at least some of us can share a few minutes on a Sunday morning. It is also a blessing that there are services available each week, broadcast on TV, radio, or online. I hope everybody can find something which speaks to them and makes them feel they are truly worshipping, even if the personal fellowship is missing.

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

Hymn: Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! (Rejoice & Sing 238)

Prayer Living God
This is the day that you have made,
this beautiful Spring day that you have given us.
May we rejoice and be glad in it,
and may we be open to you -
the maker and lover of life. Amen

Reading: John 20: 19-31

Reflection: The doors were locked for fear. There are many parts of the Bible which I feel I understand quite well... until something happens which makes me understand them better. This Easter the idea of staying in, and fearing what is outside, has taken on a new relevance. Just think about it...

And the idea of somebody suddenly appearing among them despite the locked doors? Absolutely terrifying. Those locked doors should have kept them safe, kept them hidden, kept them alive. They thought that their friends were all inside, and their enemies all outside. But they had forgotten Jesus. He can't be kept out - or kept in, for that matter. Yet his ability to join them despite all their security precautions wasn't a threat - it was the greatest reassurance they could possibly have had!

Doors and locks have their place, but they can't begin to compare with the awareness of God's presence with us - with the sense of Christ's "Peace be with you". May we have that awareness, that sense of peace, this coming week.

Amen

Hymn: Come, living God, when least expected (R&S 354)

