

Bulletin for Sunday 18th April 2021

Greetings to you all. I hope you've had a good week - but in reality I expect that most of us have had a mixture of highs and lows. Life's like that. Today we'll look at one of the early encounters of the disciples with the risen Jesus - an experience of both anxiety and excitement. His first words to them had to be of reassurance.

Let's pause as we come to worship..... and then praise God as we sing:

Hymn: Morning has broken (R&S 45)

Prayer: God of creation, and re-creation,
thank you for offering us peace in the storm,
for showing us that we can trust you,
and for sending us out as your witnesses.
You are alive in our hearts
and you inspire our thoughts.
We ask your blessing on everything we do,
and everything we give in your service,
today and every day.
Through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen

followed by The Lord's Prayer

Reading: Luke chapter 24 verses 36 to 48

Reflection: While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" [verse 41]

Of course they were happy... but they were also struggling to believe their eyes. And the sight of Jesus' wounded hands and feet may not have been very calming. Does Jesus' solution sound strange? I have a tea-shirt which says, 'Where there's tea, there's hope', and I suspect I wasn't the only one brought up to think that making and drinking a cup of tea is the best thing to do in shocking or worrying circumstances. Maybe this was similar? Jesus understood that they needed something ordinary and familiar. Something practical to do, and something which would restore his connection with them on a friendly, human level. So he asked for, and ate, some of their food - just a piece of cooked fish which happened to be handy, perhaps from an earlier meal.

Restoring some normality, and calming their fears, had the desired effect. Now they were able to listen and to understand what he needed to tell them. May we be ready to listen and understand, too. Amen

Hymn: Christ is alive! Let Christians sing (R&S 260)

Prayer: Living and compassionate God,
We pray for those who struggle with life,
especially with its unpredictability:
for those who are fearful, disillusioned or anxious;
for people worried about unemployment or homelessness;
and for those facing pain, illness or grief.
You are our hope when we face the unexpected -
so we hold before you those we care deeply about....
We bring you all our prayers, spoken or unspoken,
in the name of the risen Jesus. Amen

Hymn: O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder (R&S 117)

Blessing: Jesus said: Peace be with you.
May we find peace in his service,
and may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us and with all those we love
this week and always. Amen

As we return to worshipping together, please remember that we need to wear masks; maintain a distance from each other; and not chat, especially indoors. Singing is only possible outdoors, services must be short, and extra ventilation may make it chilly! Crucially, you **must** let your Church Secretary know you want to attend.

In our Billingshurst and Petworth buildings worship is being held indoors.
In Pulborough it is held outside on the grass. All services start at 10.30am.

There will be no more Sunday morning Zoom services for the time being.
This Sunday (18th) there will be an evening 'Sunday at Six' Zoom at 6pm as usual.
Next Sunday (25th) there will be no evening Zoom, but that is temporary and the evening service will resume the following week.

For all of us there is a chance to chat at the 11.30am 'After Church Coffee' Zooms.

Anne Lewitt