

WEBS Home Church - Resurrection

Welcome

Good morning all. Josh McDowell said this ‘the resurrection of Jesus is either the most vicious of hoaxes or, the most fantastic fact of history’. We know its not just the most fantastic fact of history but it changes everything, both now and into eternity.

Enjoy - from Dawn Airey and Jo Icke.

Worship

Let’s pray: Father, thank you that the resurrection of Jesus was and is real. Would our worship please you this morning. Amen.

- Follow the youtube links for one or more of the worship songs (the first one is a new one for children) - ‘Tell the world’, ‘Christ the Lord is risen today - He is not dead’ or ‘He has risen, Jesus is alive’.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=KXk1TFL52Ho>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNrV2fX5Qb4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PiG6GjK7ls&t=19s>

Reading

John 20:19-29 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” **20** After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

21 Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” **22** And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

Jesus Appears to Thomas

24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” **27** Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

28 Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

29 Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

There are three parts to this story:

Part 1

Firstly, there’s the resurrection appearance of Jesus so the disciples experienced just how real Jesus really is. In the 40 days after Jesus’s resurrection Jesus appeared to more than 500 people, some who believed in him and crucially, some that didn’t. Sometimes to groups of people, sometimes to individuals. There is much biblical and historical evidence for the fact of the resurrection but the most compelling evidence is the experience that each Christian has of having our own encounter with Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Without this encounter we would be simply following a good idea which we would probably abandon fairly quickly. But it is this very real encounter that changes everything for us, as it did for the first disciples.

For primary aged children - follow the youtube link to the video based on the Bible reading:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=IzMofysxbl>

Question to think about:

When did you have your first encounter with Jesus or another way of putting this is, when did he feel real to you?

Part 2

Secondly, Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on to the disciples which gave them power including power and motivation to tell others the good news of knowing Jesus - watch Jo Icke's video called '**‘Dominos’**' on either of the St Mary's Facebook pages or youtube.

<https://www.facebook.com/bozeatcafeconnections/?ref=bookmarks>

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Church-Wollaston-315298721841752/?ref=bookmarks>

Questions to think about:

What difference does knowing Jesus make to you? How might you explain to someone who doesn't know Jesus the difference knowing Jesus makes to you.....?

Part 3

And thirdly, there is Thomas's story - watch Jo Icke's video called 'Thomas' on either of the St Mary's Facebook pages or youtube.

<https://www.facebook.com/bozeatcafeconnections/?ref=bookmarks>

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Church-Wollaston-315298721841752/?ref=bookmarks>

Thomas found it impossible to believe that the other disciples had really seen the risen Jesus, he needed his own proof, he needed his own encounter. And that of course is the same for us. Its ok to have doubts, to have questions.

Questions to think about:

Can you describe a time when you doubted Jesus? Are you struggling with doubts now? What 'proof' do you need? Let's ask Him.....

Prayers:

Pray for those who might need a very real encounter with Jesus right now....an encounter that changes everything for them....pray specifically for people's circumstances...

Ask for more of the Holy Spirit for yourself, and name one person that you are going to commit to telling them about your relationship with Jesus and why it means everything...pray for that person, that they would be ready and willing to hear it...

Pray for those who doubt Jesus, including yourself, and ask Him to reveal Himself to them and to you more and more.

Say together:

Thank you Father that you listen to us because of Jesus, Amen.

Final Blessing

And so may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always. Amen.

Have a wonderful week.....