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Weekly Letter – 14 April 2024

Luke 34:36b-48

Look at my hands and feet; see that it is I myself

The pair who hurried back from Emmaus confirmed what Peter had been saying, that Jesus had been raised from the dead. Now Jesus comes among the gathered disciples and says, 'Peace be with you.'

The way Luke describes this resurrection appearance tells us several things:

- This is not just wishful thinking from the disciples and Jesus is a real presence, not an imaginary or a ghostly apparition.
- The risen one is the crucified one and the nail marks in his hands and feet are identifying markers. The resurrection does not wipe out the crucifixion, it completes it. They are two halves of the same event.
- This wasn't all a terrible mistake, but the way that was necessary for Jesus to take. It was 'written' and Jesus had predicted it.

This leads up to Jesus commissioning these witnesses to spread his message of repentance and forgiveness to all nations.

This encounter with Jesus in Luke reminds us that our faith is embodied and earthed: we are not to be so heavenly minded that we are no earthly good. It reminds us that our human ways of explaining things will not be able to capture the mystery of the cross and resurrection, but this is the way that Jesus makes: to tackle the problems of our world; for us to follow and continue his work; and for us to be with God.

Now we have the Spirit as the assurance of God's presence and the community of faith around us as the 'body of Christ'. We are entrusted with the same message to all nations. As we think about how to share the good news, perhaps we can remember that it is good news for us: we are not just good people trying to be better, but forgiven people who know our need of God and are aware of God in us and around us.

Simon

**Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Miss Sue Raad.
Bible Readings: Acts 3.1-19: 1 John 3.1-7: Luke 24.13-49.**

Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Uniting Church, Sketty

Tuesday 16th – Tea and Chat in Christ Well - 2-4 pm

Pastoral News

We heard with sadness that Rev Ivor Rees died on 1st April. Ivor served as Minister in Christ Well from 1979-1985. After retirement he and Delyth moved back to Swansea, and often led Worship here on many occasions. We offer our care and sympathy to his family.

Val Howells. A Service of Thanksgiving for Val's life will be held in Christ Well on Friday, 12th April at 1.30pm, followed by cremation at Swansea Crematorium at 3 pm.

