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Weekly Letter - 16 April 2023

Second Sunday of Easter

John 20.19-31

Jesus said to Thomas, “reach out your hand” v.27

As you climb out of bed the Christian faith does not require you to believe in half a dozen impossible propositions. Instead, perhaps it can be said, Christianity opens up to all people straightforward and commonsensical truths?

Therefore, as we consider the resurrection let's begin by stating the obvious! You are more than a clever collection of chemicals. You are not just an object within a world of objects. Empirical evidence is not the only path to knowledge.

The point of this introduction is that one day you will have to leave behind all that you possess – all the material objects in your life. Or put it in a different way, its not what you have that counts, but what you are. If this is true, then each person has the responsibility to seek out the truth of life, not fearing chaos, but excited by what you may find. For all life points to inexhaustible layers of meaning, which will often lead to a sense of awe, gratitude and which can cause an even greater desire to seek, and so move you away from solipsism and self-preoccupation.

This desire to search for meaning and purpose leads to faith, which in turn seeks understanding. Faith without understanding leads to a fanaticism and bone headedness!

So, I hope you, dear reader will this Easter make an even greater effort to understand, to reach out and explore the meaning of the resurrection. If you do this, perhaps you will discover even more meaning and commonsensical truths in the words, “Christ is risen”, and in the prayer, “May he/she rest in peace, and rise in glory”.

Stephen

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Mr Roy Morgan.
Bible Readings: selected verses from 1 Corinthians 15.

Cycle of Prayer in the Swansea Region – we will pray for Tabernacle, Mumbles

Assalamu alaikum (Peace be upon you)

(Lectionary readings: Acts 2.14a-22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1.3-9; John 20.19-31)

Here, in this place of Sanctuary, Jesus
we rest in the quiet of your calm. And whether we come as a stranger,
have faith, a little, or none at all.

Your words give a sense of belonging
"Peace be with you!"

So many are longing for peace, living in fear
having no refuge or place to hide,
feeling abandoned and alone.

In early morning light
in rush of day
in the darkness of night
enfold each heart in your deepest peace.

Make known new paths of hope
a way forward, new sources of strength.
For sometimes, we are afraid like the disciples,
not quite believing in ourselves, or in You.

Guide, and help us trust more
to speak, to listen, be your love on
earth.

For no matter what is happening within
and all around us we are safe in your presence
and in this moment, joy is ours.

May these words and your loving spirit
bring healing today and always.

Assalamu alaikum. Peace be upon you.

Hazel McCorisken (URC Prayer Handbook 2023)

