



Christ Episcopal Church

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Weekly Update 5 April 2018

Reflection

June Cook

Doubt . . .

In the Gospel lesson for Sunday we will hear, again, the story of Doubting Thomas, doubting that his Lord, Jesus Christ, had actually risen from the dead. How many times over the years have we heard or read that story? A dozen? A hundred?

As with most passages from scripture, each time I read this account of Thomas and his weak faith, I see something new, some angle of the story I've never before considered. Several things strike me this time around . . .

When Thomas is present at the second gathering of the Disciples after the resurrection, Jesus says to him, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." My sense is that Jesus said these words to Thomas gently and with compassion and love. Had I been in Jesus' sandals, I probably would have been annoyed and disgruntled that one of my key followers was weak in the faith. "Thomas, get your act together!" I might have said with reproach. "After all we've been through and all I've taught you, you still don't know who I am?"

Of course, Thomas believes, but only after seeing and feeling the physical evidence. But is Thomas a weak person, weak in his faith? Probably yes, but do we not see much of ourselves in him? Do we not have times in our lives that we can't see clearly the truth of our salvation through the haze of grief, affliction, depression . . . life?

Those among us who have never doubted God's grace or mercy or redemption or love are probably headed for sainthood! We all doubt, to one degree or another, but it's God's grace and mercy that always welcome us back into his fold. This quality of God, to always have mercy, is the underpinning of my faith . . . the sure knowledge that when I stray, he will welcome me home.

Have you seen the 2008 movie, *Doubt*, starring Meryl Streep as Sister Aloysius, the heavy-handed but fair nun who reigns over the students and staff at St. Nicholas School? The story stays with me. This paragon of virtue, constancy, and dogged belief falls into doubt about an excruciatingly difficult decision she's made. For her, doubt was the most grievous of sins and she is nearly inconsolable. We know, in our hearts, though, that after the movie ends and she goes back about her work her faith will be even stronger.

The story of Doubting Thomas reminds me that doubt is part of my spiritual journey. It makes that journey richer, deeper, and more dimensional. A doubter isn't a second-class Christian, but a believer who's wandered temporarily off the straight path. Jesus' gentle treatment of Thomas assures me that when I doubt, I'll be welcomed back into his fold.

April 8, The Second Sunday of Easter

8:00 am

Holy Eucharist

Christ Church
Reverend Carol Rodin
Mr. Guy Davidson

9:00 am—Noon

Child Care

Parish Hall Children's Room
Caregivers Yohana Agreda & Jocelyn Bruno

9:00 —10:15 am

Godly Play

Parish Hall Godly Play Room

9:30 am

Communion Service

Chandler's Square Community
Creamy Wilkins

10:30 am

Holy Eucharist

Christ Church

Presiders: Reverend Carol Rodin

Deacon: Deacon Eric Johnson

Preacher: Mr. Guy Davidson

Altar Guild: Janis Larkins, Dee Roberts

Eucharistic Minister/Crucifer: Linda Donato

Reader 1: Pamela Foggin

Reader 2: Jennifer Kellen

Ushers: Carleton Manning, Creamy Wilkins

Coffee Hour

Linda Donato & Zoanne Hyland

Tellers

Don Bergner, Pamela Foggin

Readings

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Psalm 133

Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
when brethren live together in unity!

It is like fine oil upon the head *
that runs down upon the beard,

Upon the beard of Aaron, *
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

It is like the dew of Hermon *
that falls upon the hills of Zion.

For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: *
life for evermore.

1 John 1:1—2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

John 20:19-31

When it was evening of the day of Resurrection, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Announcements

Adult Faith Formation

Weekly on Sundays

Our new program, 'Sharing Our Faith Stories' begins this Sunday, April 8.

Breakfast at 9:00 am

Class 9:15-10:15 am

Parish Hall Gathering Room

Godly Play

Godly Play meets on alternate Sundays.

Lesson for April 8: *The Story of Ruth*

9:00—10:15 am

Parish Hall Godly Play Room

All ages are welcome.

Child Care

Weekly on Sundays

9:00 am—Noon

Parish Hall Children's Room

Caregivers Yohana & Jocelyn

All ages are welcome.

Bishop's Committee Meeting

Monday, April 9
Parish Hall Gathering Room
4:30—6:00 pm

Women's Group

Tuesday, April 10
Noon—1:00 pm
Brown bag lunch
Parish Hall Gathering Room
Topic: *Summer Reading*

Safeguarding Training

Saturday, April 21
9:30 am Safeguarding God's People
12:30 pm Safeguarding God's Children
Christ Church Gathering Room
Please email Marcy at the church office to register.

Spiritual Book Group

Thursday, April 26
1:30—2:30 pm
Parish Hall Gathering Room
Book for discussion is *The Art of Stillness: Adventures in Going Nowhere* by Pico Iyer.
Please join us. All are welcome.

Cathedral Day

Saturday, April 28
11:00 am—3:00 pm
St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle
All are invited for fun and festivities.

BC & MSC Retreat

Saturday, May 12
9:00 am—1:00 pm
Parish Hall Gathering Room

Weekday Prayer Services

Morning Prayer: Wednesdays, 8:00—8:30 am
Centering Prayer: Thursdays, 1:00—1:30 pm

Gentle Yoga Class

Weekly on Mondays
3:00 pm
Parish Hall Gathering Room
Class is free and all are welcome.

Meditation Class

Weekly on Tuesdays
6:00—8:00 pm
Parish Hall Gathering Room
You are welcome to attend this weekly meditation in the Plum Village Zen tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh.
No experience is necessary and all are welcome. Cost is by donation.

Men's Group

Weekly on Fridays

8:00 am

Parish Hall Conference Room

Please join us. All are welcome.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Second & fourth Fridays

3:00—5:00 pm

Parish Hall Gathering Room

All are welcome.

The Red Door Thrift Shop

A Ministry of Christ Episcopal Church

1019 Seventh Street, Anacortes

360-293-8027

Profits from our Red Door Thrift Shop fund Christ Church's Community Support program.

Shop Hours

Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Donation Hours

Monday through Friday, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Volunteers and donations are always welcome.

Clergy Schedule

10:30 am Eucharist

April 15

Presider: Reverend Diane Ramerman

Deacon: Deacon Brian Lennstrom

Preacher: Deacon Brian Lennstrom

Reverend Carol at St. James Church, Sedro-Woolley

April 22

Presider: Reverend Diane Ramerman

Deacon: Deacon Eric Johnson

Preacher: Reverend Diane Ramerman

April 29

Presider: Reverend Carol Rodin

Deacon: Deacon Brian Lennstrom

Preacher: Reverend Carol Rodin

May 6

Presider: Reverend Diane Ramerman

Deacon: Deacon Eric Johnson

Preacher: Deacon Eric Johnson

May 13

Presider: Reverend Diane Ramerman

Deacon: Deacon Eric Johnson

Preacher: Mr. Dale Ramerman

The Week Ahead...

Monday, April 9

Gentle Yoga
3:00 pm
Parish Hall Gathering Room

Bishop's Committee Meeting
4:30 pm
Parish Hall Gathering Room

Choir Practice
5:00 pm
Sanctuary

Tuesday, April 10

Women's Group
Noon—1:00 pm
Parish Hall Gathering Room

Guemes Channel Trail Meeting
1:30—3:00 pm
Parish Hall Conference Room

Meditation Class
6:00—8:00 pm
Parish Hall Gathering Room

Wednesday, April 11

Morning Prayer
8:00—8:30 am
Christ Church Sanctuary

The Red Door Staff Meeting
9:00—10:00 am
Parish Hall Gathering Room

The Red Door Linen Group
10:00 am—Noon
Parish Hall Gathering Room

Education for Ministry
12:30—2:45 pm
Parish Hall Conference Room

Ministry Support Circle Meeting
3:00—5:00 pm
Parish Hall Conference Room

Celebration LT Meeting
7:00—8:30 pm
Parish Hall Gathering Room

Thursday, April 12

Centering Prayer
1:00—1:30 pm
Christ Church Sanctuary

Friday, April 13

Men's Group
8:00 am
Parish Hall Conference Room

Office Volunteers
9:00—10:00 am
Parish Hall Gathering Room

Prayer Shawl Ministry
3:00—5:00 pm
Parish Hall Gathering Room