

Hello everyone , it is good to keep in touch and be part of 'Church' during these difficult times. Do hope you are all well .

Here are some verses from John's Gospel that you may want to think about today.

(John 20:19-29)

"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 ' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!"

We cannot say with certainty where the disciples stayed in the days immediately after the resurrection, the text refers to a 'house' or 'room' and it could well have been the same upper room where the last supper took place.

Jesus' second resurrection appearance in that room was to Thomas. John refers to him as the one who doubted the resurrection until encountering the risen Christ when he confessed his faith overwhelmingly , " My Lord and My God" .

Thomas needed to see the evidence before he believed but the words of Jesus were loud and clear ,

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe"

It is easy to praise God when all is going well but when disaster strikes then doubt may creep in. Through the storm , we have to keep our eyes on Jesus and realise the presence of the Risen Christ among us. "No more we doubt thee, risen conquering Son!"

We need to remember that we are precious to Him and His love for us is constant , it never changes through the good and the bad, the same yesterday , today and tomorrow as expressed in the words of this well known hymn .

"Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father ,

There is no shadow of turning with thee;

Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not

As thou hast been Thou forever wilt be."

Perhaps we could reflect on these words and then pray together :

'Wondrous God,we confess that at times our doubts and fears override our hope and faith. Forgive us when we lose sight of the joy of Your love and instead fall into despair and gloom. Lift up our spirits at this time and help us to remember the promise of new life here and now, not just the hope of resurrection for the future. '

We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen .

Please keep in touch , let me know if you are in need of help and any prayers that you may have,

Love and Blessings

Judith