

04-14-24 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“Wherever there is inhumanity, exploitation, discrimination, and hopelessness, Jesus shows up offering comfort [and] assurance... He invites us to be witnesses that it is all about God--God's intention to bring peace, unity, harmony, love, compassion, grace, justice, and mercy to a world that is broken and sinful.”

- *Barbara J Essex*



Luke 24:36b-48

Questions for Reflection —

- When/how have you experienced the calming presence, peace, and comfort of the living Christ? How have you been sustained by God through what was seemingly a difficult or hopeless time in your life? How has Jesus met you in your places of chaos, discouragement or confusion? How do you maintain hope and faith in the midst of change and discouragement? What scripture passages bring you peace and comfort?

- What gives you the assurance that the risen Christ is working to make things new in the here and now? Where do you see signs of resurrection in your life, in our congregation, in the world? Under what circumstances do you find it difficult to recognize Christ's presence? What do you need in order to grow in awareness of the ways that Christ is present in various settings?

- Where in our communities and in the world do you see the need for the presence of the risen Christ? Where are the places and what are the situations of inhumanity, exploitation, discrimination, and hopelessness? How are you a witness in word or action to God's peace, unity, harmony, love, compassion, grace, justice, and mercy in the face of the brokenness in your community? How can we as a congregation witness to the intentions for God's kingdom on earth? What is our role in the mission to carry on the establishment of God's kingdom throughout the world?

Daily Household Prayer

Lord of life, submitting to death, you conquered the grave. By being lifted on a cross, you draw all peoples to you. By being raised from the dead, you restore to humanity all that we had lost through sin. Throughout these fifty days of Easter we proclaim the marvelous mystery of death and resurrection. For all praise is yours, now and throughout eternity. Amen.