

Weekly Devotions
South Holburn Church
6th April 2021

READINGS

Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God. Even if we feel guilty, God is greater than our feelings, and he knows everything.

Dear friends, if we don't feel guilty, we can come to God with bold confidence. And we will receive from him whatever we ask because we obey him and do the things that please him.

And this is his commandment: We must believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he commanded us. Those who obey God's commandments remain in fellowship with him, and he with them. And we know he lives in us because the Spirit he gave us lives in us.

1 John 3:18-24

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

St Teresa of Avila



REFLECTION

I always think that there is a bit of an anti-climax after Easter! We move from the intensity of Holy Week with nightly services. The sadness and the depth of love displayed on cross in Christ's death. The anticipation and then the celebration of Easter day itself when we make known that no matter what happens we have hope, for the tomb is empty, and we dare to shout to the darkness 'Christ is risen'.

After such a wonderful week of faith, our next question might be "What now?"

The challenge now become how do we live out the Easter story every day? Having dared to cry out Christ is risen, how do we now live with a resurrection hope in the middle of life?

At the core of the Holy Week story is the example of love and the call to love. Jesus at the last supper shows his followers what living a loving life means – he washes their feet to teach them of being a servant to others, he goes to the cross not because of any wrongdoing on his part but out of love for us, to heal our wrongdoing. But Jesus also gives his followers a command – 'follow my example'. Love on another. Show the depth of your faith in the depth of your care.

In a small French country village before World War II, there was a beautiful marble statue of Jesus with his hands outstretched before him, standing in the courtyard of a quaint little church. During World War II, a bomb struck nearby and broke the statue to pieces. When the fighting ended, the members of the little village church set about finding all the pieces of the statue in order to reconstruct it. As they patiently set about their task, even the scars of the broken pieces joined together seemed to add to the statue's beauty. But then, to their dismay, they discovered that the fragile hands of the statue had been pulverized, beyond all hope of restoration. Undaunted and in a brilliant statement of the true meaning of faith, a brass plaque was attached to the statue's base which read: "I have no hands but yours."

In that story, the quote and reading for our devotions this week lies the answer to the question 'What now?' after Easter.

Now we go and live the resurrection.

Now we go and live the love of Christ.

Now in response to the Good News of the empty tomb and the sins forgiven, we go and share the love and the hope that we have in the most practical and meaningful and personal ways that come our way every day.

PRAYER

All-giving God,

Love and hope are defined by the cross and the empty tomb,

Our future is secured by the risen Christ,

Now let us hear your call for our present,

To love one another as Christ loves us,

To serve one another as Christ has served us.

Show us how to live true to your call,

Equip and empower us to live out that call,
In our own places
and amongst our own neighbours, friends and families.

In Jesus name we pray,
Amen.

