

PRIMLEY CHURCH - APRIL 2024

Please remember those of our congregation and those known to us personally who are unwell, bereaved or struggling:

SUNDAY April 28th - AGM AND CHURCH MEETING

SUNDAY May 5th - FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

ROTAS					
April	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th	May 5 th
Elder	Maggie	Roger	Richard	Maggie	Richard
Door Stewards	Chrissy	Barbara	Alison	Sue	Maureen
COMMUNION - Roger & Marilyn					
APRIL			PREACHERS		
7 th			Rev Iain McDonald		
14 th			Rev Barbara Bennett		
21 st			Rev Peter Brain Communion		
28 th			Rev Edward Hulme AGM & CHURCH MEETING		
May 5 th			Rev Paul Snell CEO Churches Together in Devon in Devon		

John in his gospel says "It was evening on the first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews." The frightened disciples had returned to their "safe place." Suddenly the resurrected Jesus appears and offers a new prayer- "Peace be with you" and their fear turns into joy.

Researchers now believe that gratitude and fear cannot exist at the same time - that gratitude actually processes fear, effectively driving fear out and giving us the possibility of acting with courage, hope, joy, and compassion. Who among us, when we hear upsetting news, doesn't seek a familiar place filled with people who can comfort and reassure us?

Almost all of the post-resurrection appearances involve eating and food. In the fifty days between the Resurrection and the Ascension, Jesus shows up at meals and at tables, even in some cases, asking for food! And every time he does, there would be a prayer. Because that is what Jews did - said thank you at the beginning and at the end of every meal. Gratitude. Gratitude and tables go together. A lot of us say grace when we sit at a table to eat.

The feast of the Last Supper is as important as Good Friday's suffering on the cross. At our Communion services we are full of gratitude for a new life, and of sins forgiven. We say "Thank you"

Jesus dies and the disciples hide. They return to that room to remember and mourn what almost was. But God says, "No more!" God is out of patience with history's Pharaohs and Caesars and injustice, hunger, oppression, violence and death and the whole thing. And so, Jesus rises. The tomb is empty. And where does Jesus go? Does he return to Calvary's hill and point and shout, "Look, the cross!" No! Jesus rises and goes back to the room to offer peace with gratitude.

So gratefulness banishes fear, and thanksgiving replaces grief. The Last Supper is the final meal of an age of injustice, oppression, debt and sin, and the First Feast of the age of God's reign of peace and justice.. We are "passing over" from the rule of tyranny, to being the Children of God, from the bondage of sin, to the freedom of serving others. The table is set for the new world. We offer grateful prayers, and our "exodus" is at hand.

What a story! "Good News for Everyone"

Please contact Maggie for anything you wish to be announced each month: maggieknights@hotmail.com, 01395 597464 or 07980 581731