

doubting, but in the end he believed. When he saw Jesus he said, "My Lord and My God!" and he believed. So why don't we call him "Believing Thomas?" He certainly seems to have done more believing than he ever did doubting.

All the disciples doubted! So why does Thomas get the name "Doubting" and not the others? It's because he was not in the right place at the right time. He missed the first appearance. But for Thomas, when Jesus came again, he was there. He saw Jesus for himself. He touched the wounds, and believed.

And what is wrong with doubt anyway. Doubt can be useful. If we didn't doubt we would believe everything we see. I don't know about you but as I have grown older I have learned to doubt everything I hear. I'm a bit of a Victor Meldrew really.

But doubt has a dark side. While it can keep us from believing things that are false, it can also keep us from believing that which is true. Doubt can keep people from believe in the power of God and the grace of God. Doubt can keep them from trusting in God's saving grace. Doubt kept Thomas from believing in the resurrection and it still keeps people today from believing.

Sometimes I think the Disciples had an unfair advantage. I mean after all they had the physical bodily presence of the Lord to prove to them that the resurrection was true. Thomas said he would not believe until he had seen it for himself. A rather good idea when confronted with a story as unbelievable as a man rising from the dead. But he did see Jesus. He had the opportunity to see the living breathing body of the Lord. He had the opportunity to examine the physical evidence and to verify that indeed Jesus did have a pulse!

All the other disciples had that opportunity too. The Bible tells us that for 40 days Jesus appeared to them. Again and again they saw him. And it wasn't his ghost! He was living and breathing and could be touched and even ate and fixed them breakfast on at least one occasion.

But we don't have that advantage. All we have is the word of the church and the Bible and other believers. That was all Thomas had to begin with and he doubted. It is no wonder that so many people doubt the living presence of Jesus today. And how do we, who do believe, convince others to believe? It was easy for the disciples to convince Thomas. They just waited around until Jesus showed up again. I can just imagine Peter pointing and saying, "See Thomas, I told ya so." But what physical evidence do we have to prove that Jesus is alive.

I think Jesus was aware of our dilemma. He said "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet

believe." (John 20:29) We may not have the living breathing body of Jesus to point to, but there is still evidence. One evidence of the truth of the resurrection is the living presence of Christ in us. Like the old hymn says, "You ask me how I know he lives; He lives with in my heart." We can't see, hear or touch the risen Christ but we can experience his life in our lives and see him in the lives of others around us. We have not seen with our eyes. But we have seen with our hearts. We have seen the risen Christ in the changes in our lives and the lives of others. We are blessed!

What you doubt what I say? Are you still a Doubting Thomas? Well, how can I prove it to you? Look around you. We are the living breathing body of Christ, wounds and warts and all, and we are most definitely alive! "See Thomas, I told ya so." Amen.

HYMN - SHINE JESUS, SHINE

LORD, THE LIGHT OF YOUR LOVE is shining,
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth You now bring us,
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth Your word,
Lord, and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
From the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.

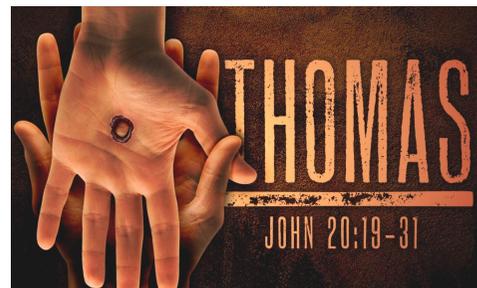
As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness.
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.

THE peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.
Amen.



A very happy Easter to you all. This week we return to our 'Our Family' liturgy. I pray you celebrated Easter Sunday, even if you are confined to barracks! Each Sunday during this Lock-down pandemic, I am in church at both 10am and 6pm and share in the service on this sheet and sing along again to all the lovely hymns. I play the video of the service and putting it through the sound system fills the building. I am truly blessed to be able to continue to do this. So, you are not alone as you worship. Not that you are ever alone as the Lord is by your side and knows, really knows your heart. So be encouraged.

We have just heard that this pattern of lock-down will continue for the next three weeks and this may be further extended to months. Thank you for your feed back of the services. It is good to report that the Good Friday service was watched by nearly 200. Of course behind the computer can be two or three people. It was watched far and wide and I thank you for sharing the service on Facebook and other platforms. It was good to hear from Deanne that it even reached Australia and was well received. Thank the Lord for this amazing opportunity to reach people with the gospel. If you have been touched in any way, please let me know so that it will encourage others. Please stay safe and always remember that I am only a phone call away if you are in need. Don't forget that the services are still available on line or by visiting the church website on: www.standrewsbentley.org.uk. Every blessing.



HYMN - BE STILL

BE STILL, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here;
Come bow before Him now
with reverence and fear.
In Him no sin is found,
we stand on holy ground;
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
with splendour He is crowned.
How awesome is the sight,
our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him,
in faith receive from Him;
Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

Our Family

God made us a family
We need one another
We love one another
We forgive one another

We work together
We play together
We worship together

Together we use God's word
Together we grow in Christ
Together we love all men
Together we serve our God
Together we hope for heaven

These are our hopes and ideals
Help us to attain them, O God
Through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen

If we refuse to admit that we are sinners, then we live in a world of illusion, and truth becomes a stranger to us. But if we freely admit that we have sinned, we find God utterly reliable and straightforward—He forgives our sins and makes us thoroughly clean from all that is evil.

WORSHIP SHEET #5
Sunday 19th April 2020

The Bible urges us to admit and confess our many sins and evil ways. We are warned not to try to hide them from God, but to confess them to Him honestly and frankly. It is then that, in His mercy, God promises to forgive us. This is something we ought to be doing at all times, particularly when we meet together to thank God for what He has done for us, to praise Him, to hear His word and to ask for those things which we need for both our bodies and souls. I, therefore, ask all of you to join me humbly and sincerely in saying together—

ALmighty and most merciful Father, we have wandered from Your Way like lost sheep, following the inclinations of our own hearts. We have broken Your holy laws. We have ignored the things we should have done, and have done the things we should not have done. As You have promised, show us Your mercy, Lord; spare those who sincerely confess their sins and restore those who are truly sorry; so Lord, give us strength to live a godly and upright life, that will bring honour to Your Holy Name. For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

ALmighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who does not desire the death of a sinner, but rather that we should turn from our sinfulness and live.

God pardons and delivers all those who truly repent and wholeheartedly believe His Holy Gospel.

Let us therefore ask Him to grant us true repentance, and also the power of His Holy Spirit, so that our lives may please Him both now and always.

With such help, we know we shall have the joy of being with Him in the life to come. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OUR FATHER Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever, and ever, Amen.

O Lord open our lips
And our mouths shall declare Your praise
O God come quickly to save us
O Lord make haste to help us

Let us praise the Lord
The Lord's Name be praised
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

HYMN—MY JESUS. MY SAVIOUR

MY JESUS, my Saviour,
Lord, there is none like You.
All of my days I want to praise
the wonders of Your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
tower of refuge and strength,
let every breath, all that I am,
never cease to worship You.

*Shout to the Lord all the earth, let us sing,
power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down
and the seas will roar
at the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
for ever I'll love You, for ever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise
I have in You.*

(REPEAT)

LESSON : John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus Appears to Thomas

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where

the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The Purpose of John's Gospel

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

THIS IS THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD.

THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified dead and buried; He descended into hell; the Third Day He rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE 1st SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

ALmighty Father, who hast given thine only Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification; grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve Thee in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Grace:

O Lord our heavenly Father, Almighty and Everlasting God, Who has brought us safely to another day, keep us by Your mighty power from doing wrong, and guard us from all danger. Watch over everything we do, so that all our actions may be right in Your sight. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Power:

O God, the Creator of peace and lover of unity, Whom to know is eternal life, and to serve is perfect freedom, guard us when we are attacked by the Devil, so that we, trusting in Your defence, may not fear any evil. Through the power of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE GRACE

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore, Amen.

HYMN - THANK YOU, LORD

I COME BEFORE you today
And there's just one thing that I want to say
Thank You Lord, Thank You Lord
For all You've given to me
For all the blessings I can not see
Thank You Lord, Thank You Lord
With a grateful heart, With a song of praise
With an outstretched arm
I will bless Your name

*Thank You Lord, I just want to thank You Lord
Thank You Lord, I just want to thank You Lord
Thank You Lord*

For all You've done in my life
You took my darkness and gave me Your light
Thank You Lord, Thank You Lord
You took my sin and my shame
You took my sickness and healed all my pain
Thank You Lord, Thank You Lord
With a grateful heart, With a song of praise
With an outstretched arm
I will bless Your name

*Thank You Lord, I just want to thank You Lord
Thank You Lord, I just want to thank You Lord
Thank You Lord*

Instrumental

With a grateful heart, with a song of praise
With an outstretched arm, I will bless Your name
Thank You Lord, I just want to thank you Lord
(3x)
Thank You, Lord.

JUST A BRIEF WORD

Sometimes I think Thomas gets an unfair deal. Everyone calls him "Doubting Thomas." But he only doubted for a week. Sure, he started off