

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, April 14, 2024)

Share:

Fear hung over the disciples as a dark cloud.

Huddled in the upper room, they spoke in soft whispers, afraid of the sound of their own voices.

Lightning flashed in their souls.

Christ, the Risen Lord, was standing with them, eating with them, talking with them.

Where doubt had reigned, hope now grew.

Where fear and panic had laid claim, faith was again planted.

How joyful it is, to celebrate this good news of God’s love!

We are called to be Easter people! Let us worship our God of new life.

Read these words from a hymn:

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

That Easter day with joy was bright; the sun shone out with fairer light,
when to their longing eyes restored, the apostles saw their risen Lord.

He bade them see his hands, his side, where yet the glorious wounds abide,
The tokens true which made it plain; their Lord indeed was risen again.

From every weapon death can wield, your own redeemed forever shield;
O Lord of all, with us abide, in this our joyful Eastertide.

Read this scripture from worship:

Acts 3:12-19, *The Message*

¹²⁻¹⁶ When Peter saw he had a congregation, he addressed the people:

“Oh, Israelites, why does this take you by such complete surprise, and why stare at us as if *our* power or piety made him walk? The God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, has glorified his Son Jesus. The very One that Pilate called innocent, you repudiated. You repudiated the Holy One, the Just One, and asked for a murderer in his place. You no sooner killed the Author of Life than God raised him from the dead—and we’re the witnesses. Faith in Jesus’ name put this man, whose condition you know so well, on his feet—yes, faith and nothing but faith put this man healed and whole right before your eyes.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ “And now, friends, I know you had no idea what you were doing when you killed Jesus, and neither did your leaders. But God, who through the preaching of all the prophets had said all along that his Messiah would be killed, knew exactly what you were doing and used it to fulfill his plans.

¹⁹ “Now it’s time to change your ways! Turn to face God so he can wipe away your sins, pour out showers of blessing to refresh you, and send you the Messiah he prepared for you, namely, Jesus.

Luke 24:36-48, *The Message*

³⁶⁻⁴¹ While they were saying all this, Jesus appeared to them and said, “Peace be with you.”

They thought they were seeing a ghost and were scared half to death. He continued with them, “Don’t be upset, and don’t let all these doubting questions take over. Look at my hands; look at my feet—it’s really me. Touch me. Look me over from head to toe. A ghost doesn’t have muscle and bone like this.” As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. They still couldn’t believe what they were seeing. It was too much; it seemed too good to be true.

⁴¹⁻⁴³ He asked, “Do you have any food here?” They gave him a piece of leftover fish they had cooked. He took it and ate it right before their eyes.

⁴⁴ Then he said, “Everything I told you while I was with you comes to this: All the things written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets, and in the Psalms have to be fulfilled.”

45-48 He went on to open their understanding of the Word of God, showing them how to read their Bibles this way. He said, “You can see now how it is written that the Messiah suffers, rises from the dead on the third day, and then a total life-change through the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed in his name to all nations—starting from here, from Jerusalem! You’re the first to hear and see it. You’re the witnesses.

Talk together:

- ✂ What does it mean to you to “get real?”
- ✂ How does Jesus “get real” with the disciples and with us?
- ✂ What part of Jesus’ visit would seem most exciting to you?
- ✂ In what places in our lives do we recognize God’s work? In what places in our lives do we not recognize God’s work?
- ✂ How will you “be real” and “get real” this week as a follower of Jesus?

Pray together:

Lord of Dawn and Darkness, how grateful we are for your loving mercies. You saw our fear and doubt, our suspicion, our mistrust, and you banished them from our lives, replacing them with hope, peace, love, and joy. You called us to be your witnesses, to all the world, unafraid of what others might think or say about us. We have been invited out of our darkened hideaways, into the light of your world as emissaries of hope and justice, peace and compassion. Be with us, as we participate in ministries of healing and hope through our church, in our community, region, nation, and world. Give us courage and strength to be your disciples in all the circumstances of our lives; for we ask this in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Resources Used:

The Message
Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion
Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal