



Team Parish of Christ the King St Aidan's, Brunton Park

**Sunday 16th April 2023
Second Sunday of Easter**

In today's readings, from the Acts of the Apostles and from St. John's Gospel, there is a marked contrast in the mood and actions of the disciples. In our Gospel reading we find the disciples disillusioned and scared for their own safety. Their hopes and expectations had been dashed in an extreme way. Their leader, Jesus, who they came to believe was the long-expected Messiah of God who would restore Israel's fortunes and freedom from domination by foreign powers, had been arrested by the Jewish authorities, condemned to death, tortured and hung on a cross to die in agony as a common criminal. They were scared and were hiding behind lock doors. And now some women of their group were saying they had met Jesus alive and out of the tomb. What was going on? What did it all mean? To say they were frightened and unsettled was an understatement.

By contrast the context of the reading from Acts is the day of Pentecost, 7 weeks after Christ's resurrection. The disciples had experienced a dramatic baptism by the power of the Holy Spirit, coming down on them as of wind and fire, giving them the courage to declare openly their trust in the living presence of Christ alive with them. Peter addresses the crowds, calling them to faith and we are told, about 3000 were baptised.

In the reading from St John's gospel, the experience of Christ alive and the empowering of the Holy Spirit, and by implication his commissioning of them to be his witnesses, is condensed to that one moment when Jesus suddenly appears to them despite the lock doors. Thomas was not with them on that occasion, but a week later was with them when Christ came again. He too was convinced of Christ alive as he invited him to touch his wounds. Christ said to Thomas, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

From that unpromising fear-filled moment following the crucifixion, the faith and witness by the power of the Spirit to the life-giving grace of God in Christ has been passed on down the generations throughout the world. And 2000 year later like those first disciples, he still calls us to be Resurrection witnesses to this all-embracing, death defying and uncompromising love of God for our world.

Acts 2.14a,22-32

On the day of Pentecost, Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know – this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

"I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence."

'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

"He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption."

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.'

John 20.19-31

When it was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among

them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

TODAY

Easter 2: 9:30am: Rev'd Ben Pullan presides and preaches from Acts 2.14a,22-32 and John 20.19-31

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**

Sat 10am-12pm, Community Room: **Saturday Café**

Sun 23rd 9:30am **Easter 3:** Rev'd Rundell presides and preaches with readings from Exodus 17.1-7, Romans 5.1-11 and John 4.5-42

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thurs 27th Apr 2:00pm **Chat and Craft**, Community Room

Sun 30th Apr 11:00am **AGM & DCC Elections**, Church

Wed 3rd May 7.30pm **APCM St Cuthbert's, Brunswick**

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live link: <https://bit.ly/2Easter23>

FLOWER DONATIONS - thank you to everyone who gave a donation towards the Easter flowers. Also thank all those who were involved in preparing the church inside and outside for the Easter Day celebrations.

AGM & APCM PAPERWORK – there are copies of the paperwork for both meetings at the back of church for anyone who would like a copy. Everyone is welcome to both meetings.

DCC ELECTIONS –we will need to appoint at least 3 new DCC members at the AGM. Please consider if you would like to be part of shaping the life and work of St Aidan's Church, and if so let Gerard know that you'd like to stand.

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION – over the next weeks notice is given for the revision of the Electoral Roll prior to the AGM. This is not a new Roll, so if you gave your details in 2019 there's no need to give them again. If you're not on the Electoral Roll and would like to be, please speak to Gerard or one of the Wardens.

ZOOM CODES – all our Zoom sessions will use only the following details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDSm1KOURtQT09>

Meeting ID: 757 377 8713 Passcode: StAidan

BOOKING ZOOM MEETINGS: if you would like to use the St Aidan's Zoom account for a church meeting, please contact Janice

CHURCH OPENING – church is open during the day, every day. Please come in at any time for some quiet time or prayer.

USED STAMPS – if you have any used stamps, please save them and put them in the box at the back of church to raise fund for St Oswald's Hospice.

FOOD BANK – any items placed in the box at the back of church will be donated to Kenton Foodbank.

DONATIONS - to make a donation to St Aidan's, please use the following link

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/8a599239-a9bd-4136-8b4b-1dcabb0a2c65>

For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the church – Churches in our Deanery: Gosforth Parishes. DCC members and officers

For the community – Snakes & Ladders Playgroup, Brunton Babies, Nursery & Toddler Groups

For the world – for Turkey, Syria, Ukraine and all countries facing hardship and conflict. For our own national and political life

For those in need - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler, Alan Gregg, Martin Seaton

For those being baptised – Daniel and Caleb

For those who have died – and on their anniversaries: David Dawson, Margaret Rennie, Arthur Gibson, Marion Fothergill

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