



24 APRIL 2022

Welcome to worship

Welcome to church this morning, we hope you enjoy worshipping with us.

Lectionary Readings

This week April 24, 2022

Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

Next week May 1, 2022

Acts 9:16, (7-20)
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

JNC Update

The Joint Nominating Committee are very pleased to advise that we believe we have found a new minister for our congregation and there will be a meeting of the congregation after church **next Sunday 1st May** to consider our proposal.

We encourage everyone to come to church that morning and be part of the meeting.

So That You May Come to Believe John 20:19-31

Churches tend to pull back a little bit on this Second Sunday of Easter. Surely, we cannot sustain the energy and passion past the day itself, can we? Like Thomas, we want to live our resurrection faith outwardly. So, what can we do that is an outward expression of our belief in the power of Easter? What hope, what joy, what grace can we show to one another and then to the world?

I cannot define your context for you, but you are no doubt aware of the ways that our congregation helps people get past their doubt by seeing the person of Christ in the love, caring, and service of the congregation individually and collectively.

Today is the time to draw attention to those ways. Remember, this season is an “of” season and not an “after” season. It means that we maintain the Easter experience throughout so let us keep celebrating.

My placement as a student minister is at Gledswood Hills. It is a different kind of Church planting that involves nothing but just sowing seeds in a multicultural, multi-lingual, and people of different faith or no faith at all. As I reflect on the reading this morning, the story of Jesus’ two appearances to his disciples behind closed doors challenges me in this ministry that seems to have no future at all. We could either choose to go out into the community and introduce Christ to them or we could stay behind locked doors for fear of disturbing their faith and belief.

The disciples were behind closed doors because they feared the Jews and, in their fear, Jesus appeared to them and greeted them with these words ‘Peace be with you’.

In this new ministry called Suburban Seeds, we could choose to fear that it may not work, or we could trust God and have hope and faith that these seeds will grow. The disciples had walked with Christ for more than three years, yet they chose fear over trust after the resurrection. Whatever happened behind closed doors in those different times happened so that we may believe. -Hani