

From the Rector's Study, the Rev. Bryce Sangster
April 16th, 2022, Easter Saturday
Zephaniah 3:14-20 Psalm 114 Romans 6:3-11 Luke 24:1-12

The disciples do not believe what the women tell them that they've seen the raised Jesus from the dead. Perhaps they dismiss it because it doesn't make sense to them Jesus would appear first to these women and not to them.

Peter must go and see for himself. On the Sunday after Easter, we hear about doubting Thomas. So, what Peter asks today is the same as what Thomas asks in the passage next week. We do have to decide for ourselves. Or to put it another way, there is a difference between knowing about, and having a relationship with.

In our society and culture, we can know a lot about celebrities and sports heroes, but they know nothing about us. So, a relationship with God in Jesus Christ has both benefits and challenges. This means that God must know about us, so we must bring before God both are joys and concerns. And not only our own but those of loved ones and our neighbors in the broad sense of the word.

This means both benefits and challenges in the present and the future. The psychological term which comes to mind is delayed gratification. This suggests we delay and put off some of the things that would be of personal benefit to deal with things in our lives that may be less enjoyable. We can do this because we know that we can experience joy and fulfillment in the future.

The Mystics express for us the double joy of both the present and the future. Time and time again Mystics talk about living in the present and enjoying every moment in the now. That is why both eastern and Christian Mystics have a contemplative practice. You have all heard of the eastern use of the Om and in Christianity the Jesus prayer. Lord Jesus, son of the living God have mercy on me a Sinner or variations thereof.

This contemplative practice is a way of helping the person let go of ideas and empty the mind about the past and the future. And as well we believe and hope for a future.

I have said at funerals that relationships of love are too important and significant not to last. So today we give thanks to Jesus for going through what he did to give us both the present in the now and future joy.

Kingdom of God has begun but is not yet. The Journey continues.
Amen