

RYDE BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICE

26 April 2020

times before. There was a recognition and an awareness and a dawning (pun intended) in the early morning light that Jesus really is alive. I don't know how you get to know Jesus, it may be in a very different way from how others do, or from how I do. There will be similarities, as we read about him and pray, and as we experience him together when we get together as his gathered Body. But most of our getting to know Jesus will be where we are, in our day-to-day lives, in our workplace and our leisure hours, in our homes, in the mundane and the ordinary that he makes sacred by his presence. And when things get tough, when we walk through times of weakness or sorrow, we know who Jesus is because he has been with us all along. When life seems fruitless he calls us to cast out our nets on the right side. At life's darkest moments we know who the risen Jesus is because he shines the light of his countenance upon us; his risen glory illuminates our path.

Follow Me. We often focus on the way that after breakfast Jesus restores the relationship he has with Peter, reflecting Peter's threefold denial of Jesus prior to his death. And of course this is highly significant. We cannot rely on our good deeds and our changes of behaviour on their own. Only restored and renewed relationships have any lasting value. Our outer public life often masks what is going on inside. Peter knows this, and reflects upon this in his letter. Our lov-

ing deeds towards each other need to be from the heart, from deep within. Its no good rushing round doing good things if our love for God and our neighbour is not sincere, if our love for each other still has conditions or limits. After his conversation with Peter, wherein Peter is able to recommit himself in love and service to his Lord, Jesus simply says to him, 'Follow me!' On the shore of the lake we are right back at the start. There is no shame. Here is the most powerful truth of all: we can begin again!

EPILOGUE

²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.
(1 Peter 1:22-23)

SUGGESTED SONG

All to Jesus I Surrender
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SW8EA7DEQ2M>

BLESSING

May 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.

<https://rydebaptist.xyz>

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the sixth Sunday Service sheet. I know that we were hoping and praying that this distancing and isolation wouldn't be going on for so long, but now we see the need for it to continue for quite a while longer. For many people there have been sad conclusions, for many others their isolation is causing great difficulties, both mental and physical, whilst for others their jobs and other life securities have disappeared.

Many of us have skills and abilities that we are able to use checking that others are OK, by shopping or keeping in touch, or by knitting and sewing some of the things that can be used by local health and social carers. Some of us are actually on the front line or could be called upon at any moment. All of us are called to love and care and pray for one another during these unusual times.

Although we are separated in our own homes, now is not the time to hide ourselves away completely. We really do need each other. The technology is amazing because it allows us to not only speak to each other but to see each other too. If we've been blessed to own the equipment, we can see each others' faces and be encouraged even as we

seek to encourage one another. We meet with each other online not just for our own benefit, but for the benefit of those others who will be encouraged by seeing us, and so that God can continue to bless us as we come before him in prayer and worship. Therefore, until it is safe to be back in our building again, Sunday mornings at 10.30am will be a time when we can join together online, if we are able, via Zoom. Don't forget that if you are reading this on your computer or device you can click on the readings and songs, and also find resources at <https://rydebaptist.xyz>

CALL TO WORSHIP

²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you believed in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. (1 Peter 1:20-21)

These are indeed days of resurrection, and our readings this morning make it very clear that if we truly believe that Jesus is risen from the dead, then our lives will be transformed as a result. There is no option. If we do not forgive, if we do not love from the heart, if we

carry around resentments or hurts, if we do not seek to mend broken connections, if we have not laid down before the cross whatever our burden might be, if we hide ourselves away in the shadows and don't come out into the fullness of the light of Jesus and the fellowship of his church, then we cannot rightly claim to have been risen with Christ. If we have been born again, the old life has gone forever and the new is here to be seen in and through us.

BIBLE READINGS

[1 Peter 1:17-23](#)

[John 21:1-25](#)

SUGGESTED SONGS

Come People of The Risen King
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jD2KYdHyX44>

Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idQ1n3cdgfo>

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you that we can join together with our brothers and sisters, the Church of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, in this way this morning. May we meet with you Lord Jesus, our Risen Saviour, as we read and pray, as we reflect upon your love and as we worship. Meet us personally where we are, and cement the bonds that unite us, so that gathered or scattered we will give you the glory and the praise. Amen.

TO PONDER

Now this might seem to be a very basic question, but I am going to ask it anyway. Who is Jesus? We may answer this question in a whole load of different ways. We may acknowledge him as our Saviour or as our Friend. We may know him by his titles, as Lord and King, as Prince of Peace. We may welcome him as the long-awaited Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One. There may be very personal ways that we might respond. We might see him as a devout holy man beyond what we could attain, or as an ordinary down-to-earth human being. But the question still remains. Who is Jesus? How well do we really know him? Who was the first century Jew who lived and worked for most of his life in and around Nazareth in the region of Galilee and later settled in Capernaum on the shores of the Sea of Tiberias, from where he launched his life's mission to proclaim the presence of God's Kingdom? Who was this man whose final trajectory led him to a criminal's punishment by death on a cross, only to be seen risen on the third day? Unless we get to know the real Jesus by a close and detailed reading of the Gospels, and by opening our hearts to him and allowing him into our lives, we will never be able to answer the question. We might be wrong. The disciples had spent three years in the close company of Jesus and right up to the end they still weren't really sure. So, who is this Jesus?

TIME OF PRAYER

This week's 7/52 contains lots of suggestions for prayer. You will have your own list of people and situations to pray for, either written on paper or written on your heart. Pray that as you read the gospel story this morning God will help you to better answer the question, 'Who is Jesus?' Think of three ways that you can get to know Jesus better, and ask God to help you to put them into practice this week. If you need any suggestions have a chat with some of your church friends or with the minister!

SUGGESTED SONGS

King of Kings, Majesty
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-VdLOOiCqo>

Our God is Greater
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01Yj7H-eSjM>

MINI-SERMON OUTLINE

Introduction. We are told in various places in the New Testament that the risen Jesus appeared to his disciples many times, yet the writer of John's gospel chooses to record just three of them. There was the evening of the first week, when Thomas was absent, then a week later when Thomas was present, and then the occasion when a group of them were back fishing on the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias) where Thomas is again named as being among them. This was evidently some time later because

they have had time to return back home to the North. They'd been away from the water and their boats for quite some time, but as experienced fishermen surely they would remember how to fish. Well, you'd have thought so!

Bible. It was Peter's suggestion to go fishing that night, and the other recorded disciples agreed to accompany him. Their night's fishing was unsuccessful. Neither did they initially realise that the man standing on the shore in the early morning was Jesus. 'Friends, haven't you any fish?' the man cries out. He continues, 'Throw your nets out on the right side and you will find some.' Of course if we are familiar with the similar story at the start of the disciples' time with Jesus as recorded in Luke 5, we will know why they immediately recognised who this man was when their nets were teeming with fish. 'It is the Lord!' Peter makes the first 100 metre dash for the shore, followed by the others with the boat and the fish, only to find a breakfast of bread and fish being prepared for them. This was the Galilee staple food, whether for lunch up in the hills with the hungry crowd or down on the shore with friends.

Identity. Notably, none of the disciples needed to ask the man, 'Who are you?', because they already knew. It was the Lord. He was with them now in the very place where it had all begun, a place where they had been with him many