

Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week: 18th April, 2021, Third Sunday of Easter

Old Testament: Zeph 3: 14-end

Psalm: Psalm 4

New Testament: Acts 3:12-19

Gospel: Luke 24: 36b-48

Reflection on the Gospel reading, by Revd. Jo Neary

Meeting the risen Christ changed people and they could not keep it to themselves. If you met someone who has risen from the dead, keeping it quiet would be impossible. We owe our faith to those who were prepared to talk about and witness to what they had seen and experienced. Without their testimony we could not have the faith we share today.

But there is more. Once the disciples had met the risen Christ and most importantly, received the gift of the Holy Spirit then there was no stopping them. We read in Acts that Peter, who denied Jesus three times after his arrest, is busy doing the most amazing church building just a few weeks later. Knowing Jesus, following him, trusting in him, being forgiven by him and then receiving his Holy Spirit has transformed Peter from fisherman to rock of the church.

We are given the same invitation, to witness to the truth of the resurrection, to be filled with the Holy Spirit and then to share that story with those around us. We read in the gospels and the story of the early church in Acts, that people are changed by knowing and meeting Jesus. We are invited to be part of the continuation of that story, changed by the risen Christ and empowered by his Spirit. Be a witness to the love of Christ Jesus in your life today. Tell your story.

Collect for Third Sunday of Easter

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am, Sunday Worship; Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm

A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England. This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.



