



Grain

“See through this fog my faith, and knit my heart to thee
Lest evil catch its tattered ends. And I become
unraveled.” - JBF

Submitted by Pastor JoAnn Fabie, Madison

Field

“19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." St. John 20:19-24

Thoughts written by Pastor JoAnn Fabie

“The Easter story is a verification of all scripture and wise words that had been said before. But the people in the locked room throughout that first day were filled with doubt and fear. Mostly fear, and suddenly Jesus appears, alive as if nothing happened. This Supreme Surprise is met with dumbstruck disbelief. They had deserted Jesus. They are hiding in a locked room. The women had gone out in the morning and returned with words they refused to accept. These men are mired in fear and guilt and anger at themselves, the Romans and the foolish authorities. Perhaps they were also angry with Jesus. And he is suddenly before them. Jesus doesn't scold or accuse or explain but greets them as usual, "Peace be with you;" and reminds them of their calling and the necessity of forgiveness. Our faith is different than the world expects. We live the ordinary day by day, but the truth of life is revealed with the supreme surprise that Jesus lives for us.

The powerful grace of God has been here from everything's beginning. The breath - wind of God began it all. The prophets and the psalms repeat God's presence as Jesus breathes on them, gifting them with eternal grace. They will live, telling of a lasting sort of life that lives beyond death. This Life is ours to live today and all the days to come. Faith is living the ordinary soaked and seasoned by this eternally Supreme Surprise.”

‘Thou that hast giv' so much to me,
Give one thing more, a grateful heart...
Not thankful, when it pleaseth me,
As if thy blessings had spare days:
But such a heart, whose pulse may be Thy praise.’ - George Herbert”

Thank you to Pastor JoAnn for her thoughts today!

Prayer

Highly Recommended

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy