



### Grain

The peace of God, it is no peace,/But strife closed in the sod. /Yet let us pray for but one thing—The marvelous peace of God.”  
—William Alexander Percy

### Field

<sup>19</sup>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.” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” John 20:19-23

### Thoughts

The disciples were locked in, afraid for their physical lives. What else did they fear? How did the trauma of Jesus’ death and intensity of the mob leave Jesus’ followers? Their teacher who seemed to offer infinite hope was taken down. In addition, some of the disciples were probably tormented by their guilt about denying Jesus and running away from the cross. By today’s standards, the disciples needed therapy, likely from a counselor who understood post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

People who experience trauma can be vulnerable to shifting their world view, so that they not only lose a naïve trust in the world but find it difficult to trust at all. You can view life through the lens of an alarming experience or ongoing intense stress and believe that oppressive powers always win in the end.

Amid the disciples’ fears and confusion, Jesus appeared. His other-worldly appearance may not have been as startling as the reality of who and what had the last word over Jesus’ life. God’s love won out and continued to in Jesus’ appearances. He didn’t condemn or give up on anyone who left him. Instead, Jesus offered the disciples peace, the sort of wide realm of God's peace that re-engages us.

As imperfect family members, friends, and co-workers to others, and as advocates who often face uphill battles, Jesus says, “Peace be with you.” Christ is risen!

Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy