



Date: 3.31.24

Title: The Wounds are Still There

Scripture: John 20:19-29

Introduction to Analog

The word, Analog, means “something similar or comparable to something else.” Analog is designed to be a tangible way to take another deeper, look into each week’s Sunday morning message. Individuals, friends, small groups, and families can use Analog for further discussion and exploration of the Sunday teaching. May this tool help you explore the expansive heart of God and practice love in the ways of Jesus.

Teaching Season

Over the next 6 weeks we’ll be exploring the season of Lent. Lent is historically a preparation time for Easter. In its earliest iterations in the 4th Century Lent was introduced to prepare new converts for the commitment they were making in joining the faith. This participation was extended to those who had wandered from the faith as a means to bring them back to the faith. As we journey through Lent this year, we will consider the journey towards the cross from the 1st person perspective of Jesus, in hopes that we will better understand what we are being called into.

Teaching

When we first encounter the wounds of Jesus, it is horrific. He is crucified. Nails are hammered through his flesh, tearing fibers as they are forced through his hands and feet. This, of course, to hold him in place as he hangs on the cross spiraling toward death. After he breathes his last, a soldier approaches him and thrusts a spear into his side, from that wound blood and water flow. These wounds are what lead to his death.

Three days later, Jesus is raised from the dead, still bearing these wounds. But now, somehow, these wounds that lead to his death and the wounds that bring us life. “By his wounds we are healed ...” says the prophet, Isaiah. It’s no wonder then that Jesus points to these wounds, inviting Thomas to touch them, and when he does touch them, they lead to his belief. This teaches us that Resurrection does not deny death. It embraces it. It takes it seriously. It does not say, “Everything will be fine.” Resurrection says, “Everything will be transformed.”

Listen to the teaching [online](#) or on the DCC App

Opening Question for the Group: Start your group discussion with the question below.

1) What's your favorite Easter tradition?

Questions for Discussion or Reflection

Here are some questions for discussion or reflection. Don't feel like you have to cover them all, and you may have questions of your own to ask. The Spiritual Practice for this week could be very meaningful for you or your group, so plan on 10 minutes or so for this exercise. If you are using this in a group context, read through these questions and the Spiritual Practice before your group meets to familiarize yourself with this material. You may want to send this out to the group before you meet.

1. What are the doubts, skepticism or cynicism you carry with you about the world today?
2. Discuss this statement: At the heart of the resurrection narrative is the reality that the risen Jesus is hard to recognize *except* by his wounds.
3. Share about your wounds that have, in time, brought healing to you and others.
4. What about Jesus' wounds and suffering speaks most deeply to you?

Spiritual Practice:

This week for our formation practice, we invite you to listen to our guided time of prayer and reflection. You can listen to this guided prayer by clicking on the link below. You can also access the spiritual formation podcast through the DCC App.

[Spiritual Formation Podcast: Lent Week 7](#)