

Jesus Appears to His Disciples 23rd March 2020

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

John 20: 19-20 NIV

Many people today will be able to relate to what the disciples were feeling at this point. They were in a room with the door firmly locked against the outside.

They were unsure of what tomorrow would bring and they were frightened of what the Jewish authorities would do if they caught them. Isn't that how many of us are feeling today? We are staying at home, only venturing out for absolute essentials and for some not at all. We are frightened of Jewish authorities but of this unknown, unseen virus which has killed so many people in so many countries not excluding our own.

Just over a week ago we were all going about everyday life doing the things we know and love. Now, we are in a state of shutdown, and in many cases fear of what the next 12 weeks, or possibly longer, will bring. But in their fear and anxiety Jesus came and stood among the disciples and said "*Peace be with you!*" and he does the same for each and every one of us. Jesus doesn't

need the key to our house because he's already there beside us. Jesus offers us his peace like the world cannot give, which is beyond our understanding. Trust in Jesus, he knows what is in our heart and in our head and still he says "*Peace be with you!*" When we feel anxious or afraid just remember that Jesus' Spirit is with us, always, no matter the time or the place. Turn and cast all your burdens on him, the Lord and Saviour of the World.

Let's pray

Lord Jesus Christ,

Our world doesn't make any sense to us just now.

People staying indoors, afraid of going out,

afraid of what people may bring in,

just afraid at times of all things unseen and unknown.

Lord help us to open our eyes and see you with us,

encouraging, comforting, loving us your children.

We ask Lord Jesus

that you be near those who are suffering

and those who are caring for them

whether they are ill at home or in hospital.

We pray for Doctors, nurses and all NHS staff

committed to helping others. We pray for all those key

workers who set out each day to do their jobs leaving

their loved ones behind. We pray for ourselves and our

family at this time of bewilderment and uncertainty. We

pray these and all our prayers in Jesus' name. Amen.