

Children and family talk for 11th April 2021

Good morning, and welcome to the children and family worship from Christ Church URC, Rayleigh.

And we start our worship today by reading from Psalm 133.

How wonderful and pleasant it is when people live together in harmony! For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil that was poured on Aaron's head, that ran down his beard and onto the border of his robe. Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount Hermon that falls on the mountains of Zion. And there the Lord has pronounced this blessing, even life everlasting.

Let's sing together: Bind us together Lord:

*Bind us together, Lord, Bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together,
Bind us together with love.*

There is only one God,
There is only one King,
There is only one body,
That is why we sing.

Made for the glory of God,
Purchased by His precious Son;
Born with the right to be clean,
For Jesus the victory has won.

You are the family of God,
You are the promise divine;
You are God's chosen desire,
You are the glorious new wine.

Bob Gillman. SoF 43, JP 17, MP 54 Copyright C 1977
Kingsway's Thankyou Music.

Our Bible reading today is from John 20 verses 19 – 29.

It was Sunday evening of the same day that Mary Magdalene had seen Jesus alive again in the garden outside the tomb, and the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said. As he spoke he showed them his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! Again, he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins they are forgiven."

One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. They told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side."

Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said. Then he said to Thomas, "put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!"

"My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed. Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."

Now let's sing again; **All heaven declares**

All heaven declares, the glory of the risen Lord,
Who can compare, with the beauty of the Lord?
Forever He will be the Lamb upon the throne.
I gladly bow the knee, and worship Him alone.

I will proclaim, the glory of the risen Lord,
Who once was slain, to reconcile man to God.
Forever You will be, the Lamb upon the throne
I gladly bow the knee, and worship you alone.

Noel and Tricia Richards. Sof 10/MP 14(649) Copyright 1987 Kingsway's thankyou Music.

Let's talk about our Bible verses

Mary had seen Jesus alive, but no one had believed her, and we find the friends of Jesus that same evening, hiding from the authorities behind a locked door because they were **afraid**. It had been a very difficult few days. Jesus had been arrested and killed, they were **worried** that they might be next, and they were **so sad** to have lost their leader and friend. Emotions were running very high, but they had stuck together.

Then all of a sudden, Jesus was there with them, inside the room they had locked themselves in! Jesus spoke to them, blessing them and showing them the wounds that the romans had inflicted on him when they killed him. It was proof enough and they were filled with **joy**! They were really all back together again except; Thomas, he had not been there, and had not seen Jesus. When they told him, he could not bring himself to believe. How could Jesus be alive again? No, this had to be some kind of a joke. He would not believe unless he saw Jesus for himself, and touch the places Jesus had been wounded.

Thomas had to wait 8 days before Jesus gave him the chance. Again, the friends of Jesus were locked into a room, but this time Thomas was with them and wouldn't miss out, they were all together again. Thomas believed because he had seen it for himself, but Jesus said, those who believe without seeing are the truly blessed ones.

Let's talk to God:

Jesus, sometimes we are like Thomas,
We want more evidence before we believe in you.
We are sorry when we don't believe your Word
or those who share your good news with us.
Help us to share and take your joy out into the world.
Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out hands as if expecting a present)
And the love of God (Put your hands on your heart)
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)
Be with us all now and for ever. Amen! (raise hands together on the Amen)

The children's activity sheet from roots:

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/22095/11-april-2021-activity-sheet.pdf>