

◆ **Melrose Vision** ◆

To respond to God's call by being a people of faith who open our hearts and minds to the true power and love of Jesus Christ.

To live our faith by providing within our changing community a welcoming environment which encourages all people to care for and accept one another.

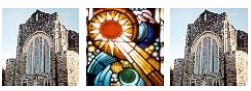
◆ **Worship Next Week** ◆

The drama of Holy Week has come and gone. We are in the aftermath of learning how to live with the incredible news. I know it's not new to us, but it is reinforced and reawakened each year as we remember what God has done for us through the life of Jesus Christ.

The faithful, obedient Jesus of the pre-Easter events becomes the risen Christ post resurrection. He is the promised one of God – the Messiah as a descendant of David.

Today's scripture is one of thirty sermons Peter gives in the book of Acts. He sends a wakeup call to those of us who "have been there, done that," in our response to the message of Easter. The wonder and awe that we first experienced as children or new Christian adults becomes tainted as we hear the same Good News story repeated year after year.

As you reflect on your life, and now would be a good time to do it, take time to think about your soul nourishment. What feeds your spirit? When life returns to so-called "normal" what might you take out of this time in isolation to further your spiritual growth? Where is God in this time for you? If God, who Jesus tells us is good and merciful, loving and forgiving, could be in the tragedy of crucifixion, and the glory of resurrection, how might this awesome God be in your anxiety and fear, your worry and even your doubts as you navigate these precarious waters of pandemic?



Life and Work At Melrose April 12, 2020

Where is God for you right now?

Our gospel zeroes in on the evening of the first day. The disciples are locked away in fear in the upper room when Jesus supernaturally breezes in through a wall to speak to them. All are present except Thomas. Peace be with you, he tells them twice repeating his theme from the Last Supper – “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.” This time his words “Peace be with you” are accompanied by his breath of the Holy Spirit upon them. “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

In this day’s current world upheaval, breath is our biggest fear – the breath of another which may infect us, or our own loss of breath in contacting the virus.

The peace that the faithful resurrected Jesus imparts to his disciples, and to us, is a reminder that no manner how much hurt or harm the world inflicts on us, we will prevail, for we are given courage for our well-being in moments of fear and distress, not just at our end but throughout the challenges of life.