

Easter I – 3.4.16

In case we are not seeing the wood for the trees, we have Our Lord saying twice over, “Peace be unto you”.

We may have peace because Our Lord has uncovered to us the gate of everlasting life. And then we have the understatement of the whole of the Scriptures, “Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord”. But he, Our Lord, teaches us no longer to be conformed to this world.

He brings a transformation and would have us see further than the everyday. He would have us see – to realise again the sure ground on which we tread, and move and have our being.

This realisation that we have, is not gotten without work. We have to look – and look carefully at what is before us – in order to have this peace Our Lord offers. And before us this morning, we have these words, “The same day at evening being the first day of the week”.

Seemingly inconsequential words – until we remind ourselves of those opening words of the Book of Genesis (Genesis Ch.1, vv.1-5), “In the beginning..... and the evening and the morning were the first day”.

The evening and the morning were the first day – and John has, “the same day at evening being the first day of the week”.

It isn't just a coincidence that John has these words, “The same day at evening being the first day of the week”.

John is intent on profound things – but he will not put things literally. John knows that we need to find ourselves by finding the way God makes for us.

We have seen, we remember, we realise – in the beginning was the Word – and now that same Word stands in the midst of his disciples.

The Word in the beginning signifies Creation and Jesus brings about the New Creation. The new creation – you and me – a new creation that comes at a price. He shows them his hands and his side. And our being newly made comes at a price for us too. God wants us for himself – to be his – willingly – eagerly – unsteadingly perhaps to begin with. But ever more surely through discipleship – which is costly – but without which there is no transformation.

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