

April 6, 2024

“Peace Be with You”

[John 20:19-25](#)

¹⁹Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

The beginning of this passage finds us on the evening of Resurrection Sunday after Mary Magdalene shared Jesus’s news that He had risen with the disciples. But instead of rejoicing and sharing the Good News with others, they are in hiding.

Hiding from the Jewish leaders, fearing for their own lives as the news began to spread. You can almost imagine what was going through their minds trying to process all that they had recently experienced--fear, confusion, and disbelief. Then suddenly, there He was! In the room with them! “Peace be with you.”

Upon hearing these words and seeing His scars, their fear subsides then He recommissioned them with a new title. They were now no longer just His disciples, but His apostles.

As Apostles, they had been given the power and authority of the Trinity to share the Good News to all the world and to forgive the sins of new believers.

“Peace be with you” now has a totally new meaning from when they first heard it just minutes before!

The apostles, “ones who are sent out, or messengers,” went on to change not only their immediate areas, but the whole world, and ours as well.

Flash forward to today. We have also been commissioned to share the Good News as His disciples. Instead of locking ourselves away and hiding from the world in fear of what others might say, as the disciples originally did, we need to be bold in our faith.

Imagine the possibilities of a world where we lived each day sharing what Christ has done in our lives and making new disciples. Imagine a world with no fear or confusion, but one of peace and clarity. Now take Jesus’s words of “Peace be with you” and let your light shine into a world of darkness.

Prayer: *Lord, lead us with Your peace into a world full of darkness as you did the apostles so long ago. Help us see clearly all the possibilities that lay ahead and to act on them so that we may change our world too. In Your name we pray, amen.*

Heather Fulton
Madison United Methodist, Madison, WV
Certified Lay Speaker, Southern District Lay Ministry Team
Annual Conference Lay Ministry Team