

PREPARING AT HOME

April 9-15, 2018

Focus reading: Luke 24:36b–48 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=385103851>)

Other lectionary readings: Acts 3:12–19, Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1–7

Theme: Love Means Showing Up

Christ is alive! He is risen! But what does that mean? How do we understand the resurrection? The answers to those questions were difficult even for the disciples who were in the presence of the risen Christ. He had shown up! There he was, standing right in front of them, offering them peace as he had done on so many occasions; yet, his presence was somehow unfamiliar and even frightening to his intimate friends. He was with them, but in a new and different way that could not be easily grasped. When he convinces them of who he is, the disciples are joyful yet still uncertain. How can they know for certain? How can they experience the risen Christ in an undeniable and life-changing way that will enable them to birth a movement that will change the world and in many cases cost them their lives? Demonstrating that he is not a ghost, Jesus eats with them. Sharing a meal is a wonderful act of hospitality even today, but it was so much more for Jesus' contemporaries! People who ate together were connected to one another in an intimate and mutual way. The risen Jesus was not just walking the earth and passing through locked doors in a ghost-like fashion; he was communing with his friends, offering welcome, support, and nourishment while receiving the same from them in an act of hospitality. He was also sharing the Scriptures with them, revealing to them things they could not understand apart from the resurrection. How did the disciples experience the resurrected Christ? By sharing a meal and studying the Scriptures, holy practices in which he still "shows up" today!

JESUS AT THE TABLE

Jesus ate with his disciples to show them that he was not a ghost. We believe that Jesus is still with us when we share the Lord's Supper. Draw a picture of Jesus at the Communion Table.

SHARING MEALS

Mealtime was special for Jesus and his friends, and it is special for us today. Who do you like to share meals with? Do you share a mealtime prayer, or grace? Write a prayer to share together or find one that you would like to read.

PRAYER

Welcoming God,
We give thanks that Christ is with us
in ways that we don't always understand;
yet we know are real.
May we be at peace
and share that peace with others.
Amen.

Prospect Presbyterian Church, Maplewood, NJ, www.prospectchurch.org

Rita Boyer, rita@prospectchurch.org