

## 04-07-24 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“Doubt may well be disguised grace, as God breaks down and breaks through the confines of our past experience and brings home a new reality of God’s presence in our lives. The very emptiness out of which our doubt comes, is our awareness that we are ready and needing of a new sign, a new birthing, a new reality of the presence of the risen Christ in our life and the world around us.”

- *Curtis Almquist*



John 20:19-31

### Questions for Reflection —

- How has doubt played a role in your faith journey? What has helped you work your way through times of doubt? What questions or doubts do you presently have about your faith? What do you need in order to strengthen or renew your faith? How can we as members of the body of Christ support one another in our wrestling with questions and doubts in a way that leads to deeper and more authentic faith?
  
- In what ways do you keep your faith locked behind closed doors? What fears, anxieties, insecurities keep you from openly proclaiming Jesus as your Lord and God? What disappointments and uncertainties interfere with your ability to see what God is doing now in your life, in our congregation, and in the world? What would it mean for you to engage your faith with various difficult economic, political, at social realities in the secular world?
  
- When/how have you known and experienced the peace of Christ breathed into you? In what aspects of your life is there presently a lack of peace? What will help you be more open to the gift of Christ’s peace? How can you be an instrument of Christ’s peace to others? How do you see Christ’s presence and peace manifest in our congregation? How can we as a congregation carry out Jesus’ mission to be peacemakers and break down walls of prejudice and fear?

### Daily Household Prayer

Creator God, your saving love endures forever; your holy light pierces the cold darkness of death and chaos; you cut a covenant of life with your creatures, which no evil can overcome. May the glorious radiance of resurrection dispel the shadows in our lives and conform us more closely to your risen Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor, praise, and glory. Amen.