

Mixed emotions

Notes on the Bible readings

- The reading from Acts follows Peter and John's healing of a lame man in Jesus' name; a crowd gathers in Jerusalem and Peter takes the opportunity to speak to the bewildered Jews. Rather than run from their unspoken questions, Peter uses them as a springboard to place Jesus in the context of Jewish history, and to talk about his life, death and resurrection and the supernatural power of his name.
- The first letter of John was written to a small community who believed in the resurrection. It reassures them that they are 'children of God' and as such should avoid sin, but makes it clear that they will not understand the bigger mysteries of life and faith until the final resurrection, when Jesus returns again.
- When it comes to fear and wondering, Jesus takes a different approach. While Peter states facts and John points to a time when we will know more, Jesus initiates an encounter. While the disciples are speaking about what happened on the road to Emmaus, Jesus appears, invites them to touch his body and watch him eat fish, thus proving the corporeal nature of the resurrection. Jesus focuses as much on his humanity as on his divinity – he is indeed ordinary, yet truly extraordinary.
- Psalm 4.1 is a wonderful summary of God's attitude to our fear and wonder – he gives us room to deal with life in a variety of ways, but in the presence of God who holds all things in his hands.

For reflection and comment linking this week's Bible reading to the news, current issues and events, go to www.rootsontheweb.com and click on PostScript.



Questions for reflection

- ▶ Devise a caption for this image.
- ▶ How restorative do you find peace and quiet?
- ▶ How is the peace that Jesus gives different?



A prayer of approach

Almighty God, reveal yourself to us as we listen to your word in Scripture and preaching, and respond to you in prayer and song. Make yourself known to us, as we recall the stories of our faith and witness to the faith we have in you. Help us to recognise you in one another in the fellowship we share. Amen.

A personal prayer

Through everything I experience this week, with all its ups and downs and emotions, help me to hold fast to the joy and hope your resurrection brings. Amen.

A prayer for the week

Just as the risen Christ appeared to his disciples, bringing them his peace and sending them out as witnesses, so you are sent out to witness to his life, death and resurrection. Amen.

Live your faith

Do an ordinary task – for a friend or neighbour – but in an extraordinary way, e.g. by showing extra generosity, or spontaneity.