Breaking Bread 3

Hello everyone,          The hymn “Break thou the bread of life”, which is our inspiration for these emails on the Holy Habit of Breaking Bread, goes on in the 3rd verse to ask that we may discover the truth in God’s word and that our eyes might be opened just like the disciples at Emmaus.
         This week’s passage of Scripture from the weekly lectionary, the readings given for the week, is 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, part of the long chapter about the Resurrection of Jesus which leads to our own resurrection and new fulfilled life in him, both now and then into eternal life. This really is the Bread of Life, so let’s break it open.
          I hope you read the passage, but, better still , please read the whole chapter.
I trust it will fill you with new hope.

          For now, I want to focus on verse 20, “Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.”
          I’m fascinated by the miracle of  how a seed becomes a plant and then produces fruit. In your hand, the seed appears to be lifeless, dry and dusty, but plant it in the ground in the right conditions, and the seed breaks open to allow the plant to grow. It really is a miracle and completely beyond my understanding.
           Paul describes Jesus as the first fruits of all those whose faith is in him. What an amazing miracle that Jesus, physically broken and spiritually separated from the Father on the Cross, then shut away in the garden tomb, should break through and break out on that glorious Resurrection morning.
            The breaking of the bread at Communion or on other occasions is not just about the broken body of Jesus, but also about his breaking open the way to new resurrection life, both now and then in God’s fulfilled, eternal kingdom. That’s what those two disciples at Emmaus finally saw and understood when they witnessed the Risen Jesus breaking the bread in their home. He really is the Resurrection and the Life. The promise of resurrection life is there, and we can begin to anticipate it now as we experience his living presence.

             I hope that these thoughts might give you “gladness of heart” whatever the circumstances of your life. I know it’s only February but, remember, it’s always Easter because Jesus is risen from the dead and he is the first fruits of all those who belong to him. (15:23)

              God bless,

                     Graham

*Produced by Graham Wassell on behalf of the Bents Green Holy Habits Planning Group (Debs Barnett, Glenn Evans, Martyn Read, Graham Wassell, Daphne and John Wilkins).  You can find more information on the Circuit Holy Habits Programme on the Sheffield Methodist Circuit website and also the Sheffield Methodist Circuit Facebook page.*

*\* We hope you are being blessed by these emails - your feedback is always welcome!  Do feel free to pass them on to your friends to encourage them also (and they can subscribe themselves by mailing Daphne - daphnetr@blueyonder.co.uk - or Martyn - martyn\_read@hotmail.com).*