



Holy Trinity Church Lent 2020 Expect More

SMALL GROUP NOTES Week 6 – ‘The Empty Tomb’

Easter Meaning?

How was your Easter weekend?

Spend a few minutes chatting and catching up with everyone.

What do you think Easter Sunday, and in fact the whole Easter season means to most people in our country now?

What is good about that? What concerns you?

Tim said in his Easter Day sermon that we live in alarming and fearful times.

To what extent would you agree with that? Think about conversations you have had with people. How does that fear play out in the way people are and behave?

Read together Mark 16.1-8

If you haven't already heard Tim's sermon on this, you might want to listen via YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQtRfH8ZqQJPfbEGXfciivw/featured?view_as=subscriber

Alarm and Fear

There is a rawness about Mark's account of the resurrection and a focus on the alarm and fear that the women experienced. Mark uses this word translated here as 'alarmed' at various points in his gospel – it is often translated as 'astonished' or 'troubled'.

Look up some of the verses - Mark 6:50, 13.7, 14.33

To what extent do you think Jesus had an 'alarming' ministry?

Can you think of other instances where Jesus has provoked alarm as a reaction?

It's a really interesting idea to think of Jesus as alarming, unsettling, even bringing fear at times (especially when he talks about end times).

Is this an aspect of Jesus we know? Relate to? Present to others?

Perhaps it is no wonder the women at the tomb are left at the end of the reading in a state of alarm. But what is interesting is that we are invited, through this story to stand with them in that place. The gospel writer Mark leaves us with a cliff hanger – what will the women do next? What will happen to the disciples? How will things work out? How will the two Marys and Salome decide to respond in the light of the angel's message?

Alarm in our nation

Tim said in his sermon 'In many ways, today, this week, as we are fearful and trembling and in alarming bewilderment, we can relate to Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome. 2000 years separate us, our contexts are radically different – but in many ways we face the same question they did. In our moment of fear and alarm, will we on this Easter Day live in the knowledge that he is risen?'

In what ways does the knowledge that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive today relate to our current crisis, and the accompanying feelings of fear and alarm that seem to have gripped the nation?

Tim talked about moving to a place of
faith not fear,
peace not dread,
trust not alarm.

Is this realistic for us?

How are we feeling about the current crisis?

How does our faith help us right now?

Think very practically about the current situation –

Discuss together what you might do for those in our neighbourhoods who are trapped in a place of fear.

Response

If it is possible, spend some moments praying for one another. Why not commit to each member of the home group phoning one other during the next few days?