

Hi Everyone

Warm greetings! Or rather Happy Easter. Here are some things to help you with the sermon on Sunday morning. May God be with you

Love

Julian

The passage is John 20:19-20

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

We will be taking up the idea of locks – bike locks, padlocks, locked doors and apply it to Jesus, and to us

Sermon Intro

Locks and what they do.

They were stuck in Easter Saturday - Jesus dead and buried. Are we Saturday's children too? .

But **Lockdown can't stop Jesus**

Pause to consider or discuss:

Do I feel like I am stuck in Saturday – one of Saturday's children? How does the current lockdown make me feel like that?

1. No lockdown could stop Jesus rising from the dead [he was locked in a tomb]

Evidence for the resurrection

- On Friday Jesus = dead + buried + sealed
- By Sunday morning body not there
- J seen/ by eye witness – many many many. Touched some.

Why should Jesus' rising again be scientifically impossible?

'Just because an event does not normally happen does not mean it could never happen.'

Pause to consider or discuss

How strong do you think the evidence for the resurrection is? If you aren't convinced, what would it take to convince you? And you have a strong alternative explanation for the evidence we have including the transformation of the disciples and the growth of the early church?

2. No lockdown can stop Jesus coming to frightened people [they were self-isolating and terribly afraid]

- They examined him and realised he was their Lord.

Pause to consider and discuss

What do you think of the idea of asking God to help you at your stage of the journey? What would stop you doing that?

How is it helpful to you to think of Jesus being able to get through any kind of locked door to come to us in our fears?

3. No lockdown can stop Jesus bringing us peace and joy

He pronounced peace upon them and they respond with Joy

Why-because has conquered death and will take us to a new world

-because he forgives our sins

Pause for discussion or reflection:

What difference does it make to us that Jesus has conquered death?

How special is it (or would it be) to know that Jesus has got us out of the padlock of our own guilt?

Conclusion

Rosie funeral

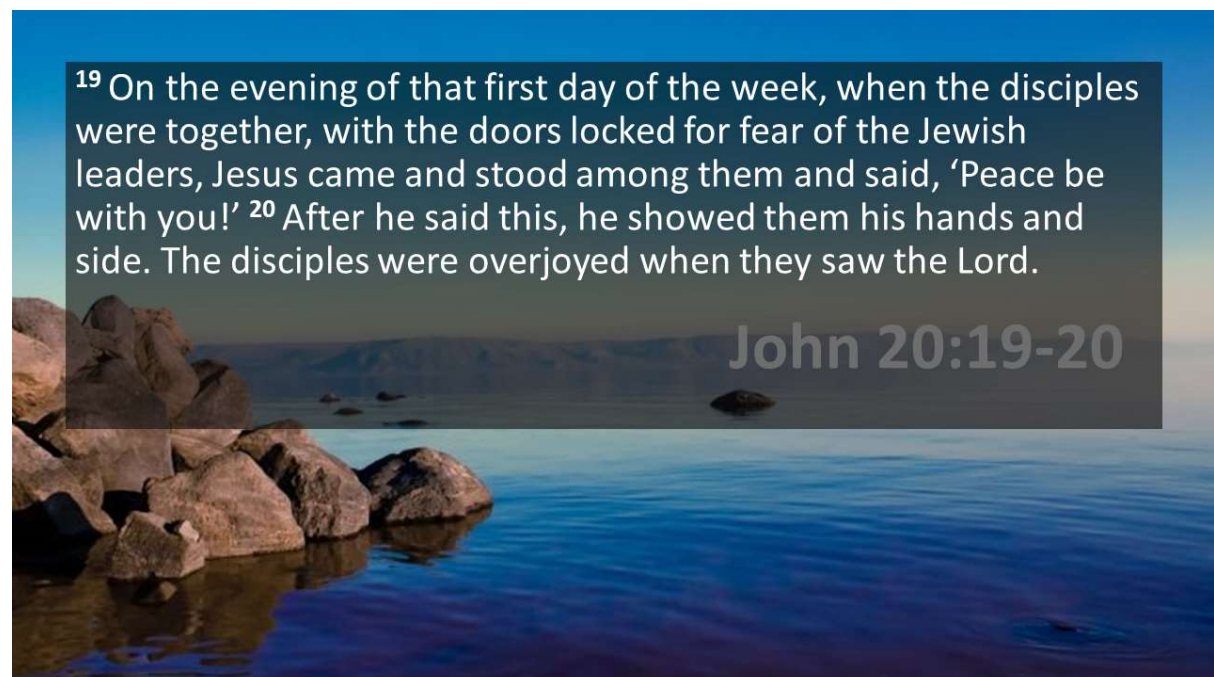
Where are you?

Final Questions after sermon

Where are you this morning in relation to Jesus and his resurrection?

What is the next step you send God wanting you to take?

Copies of the slides used during the sermon follow:



Pause to consider or discuss:

- Do I feel like I am stuck in Saturday
– one of Saturday's children?
- How does the current lockdown make me feel like that?

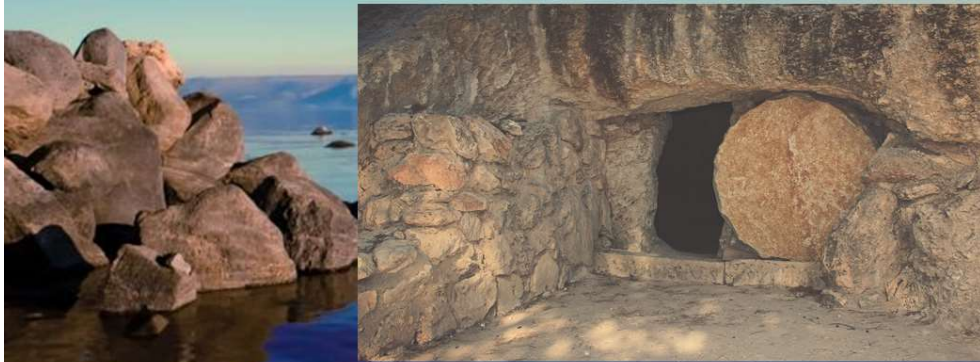


Lockdown can't stop Jesus



Lockdown can't stop Jesus

- rising from the dead



Evidence for the Resurrection

- On Friday Jesus was dead and buried
- By Sunday morning the body was not there
- He was seen by eye witnesses
 - many times over



Why should Jesus' rising again be scientifically impossible?

'Just because an event does not normally happen does not mean it could never happen.'



Pause to consider or discuss:

- How strong do you think the evidence for the resurrection is?
- If you aren't convinced,
 - What would it take to convince you?
 - Do you have a strong alternative explanation for the evidence we have including the transformation of the disciples and the growth of the early church?



Lockdown can't stop Jesus

- coming to us



Pause to consider or discuss:

- What do you think of the idea of asking God to help you at your stage of the journey?
- What would stop you doing that?
- How is it helpful to you to think of Jesus being able to get through any kind of locked door to come to us in our fears?



Lockdown can't stop Jesus
- bringing us peace and joy



Pause to consider or discuss:

- What difference does it make to us that Jesus has conquered death?
- How special is it (or would it be) to know that Jesus got us out of the padlock of our own guilt?



Where are you this morning in relation to
Jesus & his resurrection?

What is the next step you sense God is
wanting you to take?

