

Tuesday - March 29

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

John 20:27-29 (NRSV)

As I write this, I am waiting to pick up a visitor traveling from Newark to Columbus. This waiting triggered my memory of when I flew from Newark on September 9, 2001. I was engrossed in a book and barely looked as the pilot pointed out the twin towers. My luggage arrived the next day, and we all remember what happened the day after that. It could have been me. Would I have had the courage to fight and die for what is right? I am not a crier, but I couldn't contain it during the pastor's prayer the next Sunday as I felt a wave of spiritual presence. Yet, time passes, and I haven't thought about Newark in years...until today. I wonder if the Disciples thought it could have (or should have?) been them when they looked up at the cross the next day. The vividness of what we now call the Lenten period must have motivated them to pass on all of Jesus' teachings that they did not yet understand until after the cross. Experiencing others' life-changing spiritual revelations is what I think of as "one body in Christ." I truly believe that God asks us to simply be open like Jesus was. That sounds crazy until it doesn't. The Disciples were far from perfect, but they became increasingly open as teachings turned into spiritual encounters and ultimately into bold witness. Of course, I feel doubt and uncertainty, but fighting to stay open in today's challenging and apathetic world helps others to pull me back. Then, I too want to leave my unique fingerprint in his open side and proclaim, "My Lord and My God!"

Jeff

Prayer: Holy God, thank you for those believers who helped me grow my faith. Please help me to witness more boldly for others to see and believe in Your risen Son. I pray for openness to all during this Lenten period and all those in the future until we are filled at last. Amen.