

Reverend Ken Kvistad Sermon 28TH APRIL 2019 @Charmettes

Peace I give you. Why would Jesus Offer his peace to his friends and followers at this time? And why do we continue to wish each other the Peace at most every Christian gathering?

First of all what is the situation the disciples find themselves? Were they enjoying a nice leisurely tea party? NO DEFINITELY NOT!

The whole scene smells of fear, possible violence and revenge and above all depressive disappointment! Just yesterday, Jesus, their hope for the future, had been brutally beaten and crucified to death on a cross and the word is getting around that there is a conspiracy in the making prompting reprisals. (They're fearing they're next)

So we see them in the upper room where they've locked themselves in for fear of those ruling classes that had put Jesus to death.

Our reading from Acts Ch 5 gives us a taste of this fear of this treacherous behavior and shows that their fears are not unfounded! in fact, Peter and some disciples are thrown in prison for continuing to teach in Jesus name. The head

priest and the Pharisees are incensed with jealousy for the power and acclaim afforded JESUS and they put his followers on trial... to silence them... but the Holy Spirit intercedes and saves them. This scene shows the hateful vengeful mood surrounding the post crucifixion disciples but also alternatively the peace and protection afforded them through the Holy Spirit!

My peace I give you be not afraid! So Jesus reads their fears just as he did as they crossed the stormy sea of Galilee and he Consoles them and puts them at peace.

He also refers back to his attempt before his crucifixion to COMFORT them. Recorded earlier in John (14:25-27) in the upper room as his departing words he says:

'All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

14:²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. I am with you always...

After the crucifixion again in the upper room their fears are comforted and even Doubting Thomas is finally persuaded and sees the Risen Lord and Master in Jesus. They have all believed that Jesus has indeed risen and is alive and has

the authority to deliver what he has been promising them- PEACE.

Jesus blows on them to receive the **Holy Spirit**. This **is** the Lord and Master that they and we have, who has the power and authority to give the Holy Spirit who brings deep and everlasting PEACE.

Who is this Jesus?

In the **Revelation** reading we see exactly what kind of Lord and Master Jesus is:

Rev 1: To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.

Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the ethnic peoples of the earth will wail. So it is to be. **Amen.**

⁸ 'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

AMEN! SO HE IS THE FIRST AND THE LAST OUR LORD WHO GIVES EVERLASTING HEAVENLY PEACE AND PRICELESS GRACE, JESUS THE

CHRIST! HE SAYS TO US ALL "MY **PEACE** I GIVE... MY PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU"

So if you are anxious now about anything (relationships, health issues, climate change disasters, terrorist attacks, or whatever pending issues you fear), Christ promises to come alongside of EACH OF us and give us a deep, lasting peace... NO, NOT as the World promises but all too often fails to deliver, BUT a true one, real, deep and everlasting... he tells us all:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. **Not** as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

"Peace...then... true and lasting peace you can trust eternally from the Prince of Peace! HE IS HERE NOW RIGHT BESIDE EACH OF US INVITING US TO OPEN THE DOOR TO OUR HEART AND LET HIM IN AND WITH HIM THE PEACE THAT SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING. THE PEACE OF CHRIST!

As Christ offers us His peace let us all **stand** and offer one another that same PEACE, JESUS' true everlasting PEACE!!