

I AM - Week 7

Spiritual Practice - Listening Prayer: Start your group by listening to a worship song of your choice. With the lyrics in front of you, listen to the words of the song. What word or phrase captures your heart? Repeat these words to yourself, and imagine Jesus speaking them over you. Let these words rest inside you and bring you peace.

Mel started her sermon embracing the harsh reality that Easter this year looked very different from what we are used to, but she quickly showed us how our experiences this year bring us closer to the first Easter than ever before. On the morning of the first Easter, many of the first believers were at their homes, feeling lonely, scared and sad because their hero, friend, and future king had just died. During our isolation, we are experiencing something akin to what the apostles must have felt, as though we are all holding our breath and waiting for God to come and make everything “right”.

Discussion Questions:

Read John 11:11-27

Jesus doesn't show up how or when we want him to on purpose. Jesus said “I am the Resurrection and the life” when life was shaky, when he was grieving the death of his dear friend Lazarus. He said this with close friends, with his guard down, in a safe space.

- What does Jesus' statement, “I am the resurrection and the life” mean to you now?
- What are your usual Easter Traditions? What have you missed the most this past Easter Sunday?
- Do you have a safe place or person, like Lazarus was to Jesus? If yes, what about that person is safe to you?

Read Luke 24:13-35

In this passage, people couldn't see Jesus because they were too busy looking at the current events. Jesus wants to be noticed and invited in.

- How can we notice Jesus in this time? How can we practice inviting him into each day?

Read Luke 24:36-43

At this point in the story, Jesus' friends and disciples were trying to figure things out. They had heard a lot of stories from some of the women, but reports were probably conflicting, and it would have been difficult to reconcile what they heard with their hopes and their understanding of human mortality. Jesus shows up and asks, “why are you troubled?” to his followers.

- Have you felt God comfort you during this time? How has God seen you and met you?

On Sunday, the band sang a worship song with the lyrics: “You take what the enemy meant for evil / And You turn it for good.”

- How have you seen God use this time to make something good?