

Thought for the day – Wednesday 25th May 2022

by Revd Kit Gunasekera

Then He appeared to James - 1 Corinthians 15:7

Jesus appeared to many different people, in different settings. I like the line, "then He appeared to James", and that is the only account of that encounter! Whether he is the one our church is named after is not clear, but the resurrected Jesus still appears amongst us. He has promised to be with us each time we meet, and we become the body of Christ. We encounter His love and power each time we worship and pray for one another, as we read and learn the scriptures together, as we break bread together and as we share what we have with each other. It is not an abstract memory of him that is present, but His actual presence, by his Holy Spirit. He speaks to us, guides us, helps us, teaches us, heals us, inspires us, filled us with joy, peace, sets our gifts and callings on fire. He changes our character. Each time someone is baptised, they join this living, vibrant, dynamic spiritual family.

As the easter season moves into Ascension (This Thursday) and the 10 days of waiting until the Day of Pentecost (Sunday 5th June), may we be stirred to expect something amazing to happen among us.

Bible Passage:

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 he was buried, he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also...

- 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

PS: Paul seems to have forgotten that Christ first appeared to women!