

Real Faith is all about WAITING

*“Faith is a way of waiting, never quite knowing,
never quite hearing or seeing, because in the darkness we are all but a little lost.
There is doubt hard on the heels of every belief, fear on the heels of every hope.
But faith waits even so, delivered at last from the final despair
which gives up waiting altogether because it sees nothing life worth waiting for.
Faith waits, for the opening of a door, the sound of footsteps in the hall,
that beloved voice delayed, so long that there are times when you
all but give up hope of hearing it again.”*

A Room Called Remember, Frederick Buechner

Let us pray,

O Lord, we thank you for the gift of this day, for the time that you have given us to share in worship. We give you praise for the new life that you have given through your son, Jesus Christ. By his resurrection victory, the power of darkness has been overcome, and the reign of your glorious light and life has come. Open us to this joy and let your Holy Spirit of peace fill us. Amen

It is hard to wait!

But that is where we are at, isolated in our homes and community, cut off from loved ones far away, waiting. Waiting for the curve to lengthen, waiting for the hospital count and death count to go down, waiting for the virus to soften its grip upon the world.

It's hard to wait!

Thomas missed the first “Easter” celebration. He was not with the other disciples. Where he was, we do not know. Maybe he had to “isolate” himself from his own turmoil, and from his friends, just to try and make sense of it all. I mean to say, after the horrific events of Good Friday, what was he to do?

The truth be told, we are a little “put out” with all the things happening around us. This pandemic has exposed more deeply some of the challenges of the inequities of life. Too many people have died, too many lives have been disrupted.

It is hard to wait!

From the very beginning, Thomas had represented the voice of critical reason. Thomas was the one who exercised, prudent caution. So, when the disciples had finally convinced Thomas back into the room, “the closed room”, Thomas was having nothing of their joy. “We have seen the Lord.” To which Thomas said, **Wait**, “not until I put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side” will I believe what you have seen.

It's hard to wait!

“Peace be with you.” Standing before Thomas, Jesus says, the waiting is over, I am here, before you and with you. “Reach out your hand” if you but dare, reach out and see the “graced” one before you, reach out and see the Savior of the World, reach out and touch the life renewed and given, reach out and believe.

Frederick Buechner said it well, “Faith waits, for the opening of a door, the sound of footsteps in the hall, that beloved voice delayed, so long that there are times when you all but give up hope of hearing it again.”



Peace be with you,

Pastor Dave Beard