



DATE: April 19, 2020 (EASTER)
SCRIPTURE: John 20:19-31
TITLE: Even though the door was

This passage begins on Easter Sunday and ends a week later. It begins on the day of Resurrection, when the disciples are fearful, and gathered together in a closed room. They are mourning the death of their teacher, friend, leader, and the man they believed was the Messiah. They must have feared that they would be next. They knew that there was no shortage of crosses upon which to hang treasonous Jews.

On that Resurrection Sunday, when the disciples were sheltering in place, self-quarantining themselves behind closed doors, Jesus entered and brought peace.

It is in the midst of that fear, mourning, and desperation that Jesus appears to them. “Peace be with you.” he says to them. Then he shows them his scars, and they are overjoyed. The relief and joy they felt at that moment must have been overwhelming. So Jesus says to them again, “Peace be with you.”

In the second half of the story, Jesus appears again. Once again he first says, “Peace be with you.” This greeting is shared by Jesus again and again. When the disciples were fearful and anxious, Jesus brings peace. When they are overjoyed, Jesus brings peace. In the midst of their uncertainty and doubt, he bring peace.

Two different times the disciples are gathered in a room with a closed door for fear of the outside world. Each time Jesus appears anyway and brings them peace.

Today we are in our homes, behind closed doors, fearful of what may be “out there.” Some of us are responding to quarantine with

renewed vigor, a chance to prioritize, organize, read, invest, and learn something new. Others are just barely holding on, struggling to deal with extra work,

extra tasks, debilitating stress, or crippling loneliness.

Many of us go back and forth between these extremes several times a day. On that Resurrection Sunday, when the disciples were sheltering in place, self-quarantining themselves behind closed doors, Jesus entered and brought peace.

He brought peace to the fear. He brought peace to the joy, and he brought peace to the doubt. As we remain in our homes, behind closed doors, may we notice that Jesus is there, and in the midst of all that we are feeling and experiencing, he says to us all, “Peace be with you.”