

The Weekly Message from Darren Brandon

April 10, 2024

**“Morning, Noon, and Night”**

After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to his followers who were hiding behind doors bolted shut. They were afraid. The scene is the church at its weakest - scared, disheartened, fearing the future. This church isn't going to win any awards. The crowds are gone, and there is no mission plan, only fear. Here is a church with absolutely nothing going for it—except one thing.

As the church gathered, the Risen Christ stood among them, transforming their fear into Peace. The gospel reveals the true essence of the church - the presence of the Risen Christ. Given all that had transpired, we might expect Christ to come with judgment, pointing out their shortcomings. Christ did not come with judgment but with a message of Peace, repeating it again and again, "Peace be with you."

Jesus had taught how to cultivate an awareness of the unseen reality of God's presence, a presence that is with us morning, noon, and night. He learned to pray from his Hebrew Tradition, which helped him constantly acknowledge God's presence.

Like Daniel, he would have paused to pray in the morning, noon, and night. Prayer helps us remember that God is present at all times and places, "a very present help to us." Would you join me this morning and pray? Offer words or be silent. Just pause and acknowledge that every good and perfect gift comes from God—everything.

Like the children's meal-time prayer says -

Thank you for the world so sweet,  
Thank you for the food we eat.  
Thank you for the birds that sing.  
Thank you Lord for everything.

Blessings,

*Darren*

