



# GREEN PARK FREE CHURCH

CNI, Diocese of Delhi,  
A-24 Green Park, New Delhi-110016



**Second Sunday after Easter  
Witnesses to Christ's resurrection.  
26<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

Presbyter-in-Charge	Associate Presbyter	Hon. Secretary	Hon. Treasurer
Rev. Dr. Paul Swarup 9811397771	Rev. Vishal R. Paul 9313912594, 8700784065	Mr. Dennis Singh 9811269792, 8700319032	Mrs. Kiran Mohan 9811477154

Regular Sunday Service  
**Hindi: 8:30 a.m., English: 10:30 a.m., Evening Worship: 5:30 p.m.**  
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**PLEASE SWITCH OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONES WHILE IN THE CHURCH**

### Pastor writes

We continue in our lockdown for another week after which we will get to know whether the lockdown will be extended or not. Meanwhile we are all in our own homes, not being able to venture out unless we are an essential services worker. Many of us are still filled with fear and anxiety as we hear of friends and neighbours suffering from this Covid Virus. The disciples too were in a similar situation after the death of Jesus. They too were filled with fear and anxiety. The disciples had hoped that Jesus would lead them into a new kingdom where they will be free from Roman rule. They never expected the crucifixion of Jesus despite Jesus repeatedly teaching them that the Son of Man had to suffer and to die and then be raised again on the third day. The death on the cross seemed to be irreversible. The disciples themselves were filled with fear that they had locked themselves for fear of the Jews on the evening of the first day of the week. The threat was too real for them. Their leader had been crucified and now they were like sheep without a shepherd, frightened and scared. They were also terribly depressed that their leader who had promised them a kingdom, was now cruelly snatched out by the cross.

However, the resurrection of Jesus radically altered human history. The disciples who were scared a lot were filled with boldness and confidence. They were transformed because they were witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus. This morning, the theme for our meditation is 'Witnesses to Christ's Resurrection.'

On the first day of the week when the women, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and other women went to the tomb, they found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb and when they entered they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. Matthew records an earthquake and then the presence of an angel who tells them that he is risen and has gone ahead of them to Galilee. So also does Mark record an angel. Luke records two men who ask them 'Why do you seek the living among the dead?' The reaction of the women in all the accounts is the same. They were terrified on one side but they were also filled with joy and so they run back to inform the disciples about what they had seen. The disciples think that they are uttering nonsense. In fact the word that is used in the Greek is the word *leros* which means 'nonsense' or 'idle talk a term used in medical settings of delirious talk of sick people. Here again we notice Luke the Physician with his medical terminology. Peter and John then rushing off to the tomb and finding it exactly as the women had informed them. John records that they still did not understand from scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead. As the women were returning Jesus meets them and greets them. In John's Gospel Mary Magdalene is crying outside the tomb when Jesus himself asks her, 'Woman why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?' Mary thinking he was the gardener says, 'Sir, if you have carried him away tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.' Jesus addresses her by name 'Mary' and she immediately recognizes who it is and holds on to Jesus responding to him as Rabboni!

On the same day of the resurrection two disciples had set off to a village called Emmaus which was about 11 km from Jerusalem. The two disciples were talking with each other about all that happened as they could not get their head around it. They were so caught up in their conversation they did not even see Jesus joining them. They were probably going to Emmaus for the remaining part of the Feast of the Unleavened bread, as the main Passover celebrations were over. Even though they were leaving Jerusalem, the events that had happened in the last three days dominated their discussions. Jesus asks them what they were discussing about and they retort by saying whether he was the only one who was oblivious to all that had happened in Jerusalem.

Jesus then explains to them beginning with a rebuke. They were foolish and slow to believe all that the prophets had spoken. The disciples were slow to understand what the OT scriptures had foretold about the Messiah. Jesus himself kept on teaching them that it was necessary for the Son of Man to suffer and die and then be raised again on the third day (Mk 8:31, 9:31, 10:33-34). The disciples did not understand the witness of the OT Scriptures. The Suffering Servant in Isa 53 should have shown them that glory would be reached only through suffering. Jesus would be taken up into heaven where he would receive his glory. Jesus will return also as the glorious Son of Man. The disciples on the other hand were looking forward to an earthly king and kingdom who would uproot the Romans and give them political freedom. Luke basically records that Jesus used all of the OT scriptures to explain that the Messiah had to suffer and die and then be raised again on the third day. The disciples' minds were informed and their hearts were touched. The irony of it all was they were seeking empirical evidence of the resurrection when the risen Jesus himself was in their midst.

The disciples are keen that Jesus stays with them and joins in the meal. Even though Jesus is actually the guest of

the two disciples he plays the role of the host and breaks the bread. And as Jesus broke the bread their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus. It is not a communion service that Jesus is enacted here; rather, Luke wants to make the point that the Christians of his day were able to have the living Lord made known to them in their "breaking of bread" in a manner that was at least similar to the experience of the Emmaus disciples. The hospitality of the disciples was well rewarded! Christ's absence turns into presence. Their eyes were opened.

When we encounter Jesus our eyes will be opened too and our hearts will be warmed. The disciples were transformed because of the resurrection and they were witnesses to it. Because of their witness the Church exists today. We too are called to be witnesses to the risen Christ. May we too encounter the risen Christ and be his witnesses.

**Shalom**

**Paul Swarup**

**Order of Service  
Call to Worship**

Jesus said, "You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." (Act 1:8)

<b>Leader</b>	Paul Swarup	
<b>Opening Hymn</b>	GP 104	Immortal, invisible, God only wise
<b>Adoration</b>	Section 3 to 5	Vishal Paul
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	Acts 2:22-32	
<b>Responsive Reading</b>	Psalm 30:1-4, 11-12	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	1 Peter 3:13-18	
<b>Hymn</b>	GP 249	On calvr'y's brow my Saviour
<b>Gospel</b>	Luke 24:13-35	Vishal Paul
<b>Sermon</b>		
<b>Nicene Creed</b>	Section 14	All
<b>Notices</b>		Paul Swarup
<b>Intercession</b>	Section 16	
<b>Confession of Sin</b>	Section 17 to 19	Vishal Paul
<b>Absolution &amp; Peace</b>	Section 20 & 22	Paul Swarup
<b>Offertory Hymn</b>	GP 177	When I survey the wondrous <b>Prayer for those who celebrate their Birthdays &amp; Anniversaries this week</b>
<b>Prayer and Benediction</b>	Section 45	Paul Swarup
<b>Closing Hymn</b>	GP 68	And can it be that I should gain

**Collect**

Almighty Father, grant that, as the disciples found again their risen Saviour in the breaking of the bread, so we also may ever know his presence in our midst, and bear joyful witness to his saving power, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. **Amen.**

**Psalm 30:1-4, 11-12**

**I will exalt you, LORD, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me.**

LORD my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me.

**You, LORD, brought me up from the realm of the dead; you spared me from going down to the pit.**

Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful people; praise his holy name.

**You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,**

that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent. LORD my God, I will praise you forever.

**Please pray for our church family members who are in need of your prayer support:**

Ms. Sanjivani Agarwal, Master Isaiah, Mr. Eugene Samuel, Rev. G H Grose, Mrs. Hilda Immanuel, Ms. Shiela Choudhary, Mr. Dalip Kumar Ghosh, Mrs. E. S. Ruskin, Mr. Neelu Joseph, Ms. Mellisa Dass, Mrs. Virginia Sen, Mr. Suresh Kukde, Mrs. Jyotika Suraj, Mrs. Savitri, Mrs. Cynthia Nathaniel, Mr. Samuel Robert, Mr. Raphael Satyavrata, Mr. Emmanuel Soren and Mrs. Sheela Singh. Pray for the relief from the corona virus around the globe.

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**


**NOTICES**

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