**Peace, doubt, and conditional Faith**

**John 20:19-29 / April 7, 2024 / David Leach**

* Fear turns to joy
  + What changed
* “Peace be with you.”
  + So much more than just “Shalom” – John 14:27, 16:33
  + Because Jesus conquered sin and death true and complete peace is finally possible through him
* “As the Father has sent me”
  + Jesus came to reveal God to the world and to show the truth of the way to him
  + He now sends the disciples to declare that truth; to declare Jesus
* Late to the party
  + The disciples kept on telling Thomas they had seen Jesus.
  + Trust, but verify
* Doubt or conditional faith
  + Do we ever put conditions on our faith
  + God, I’ll believe if \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* There’s a stigma attached to doubt in the church
  + We’re afraid to admit our moments of doubt
  + What does my doubt say about my faith
  + What will others think of me if they know I have doubts
  + Can I be a believer and still have doubts
* Jesus doesn’t condemn Thomas
  + He speaks peace into his doubt, his anxiety, his grief, and his disbelief
  + “Don’t be faithless, but believe” – a command
* Doubt turns to praise
  + It’s not a head thing; it’s a heart thing
  + Thomas sought a personal experience with Jesus and received more than just proof
* “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”