

“God Has Visited His People”
16 September 2018
Little Trinity Anglican Church, Toronto

Discussion Questions

(take as many as you want, in any order)

Read Luke 7.11-17, Ephesians 3.13-21

1. Luke says that Jesus “had compassion” for the grieving mother. The Gospels record many incidents where Jesus is around sad situations, but it doesn’t always mention him having this intense emotional reaction. What do you suppose is happening here that makes him respond this way? What does it mean to you that Jesus experiences this kind of emotion?
2. What do you imagine happens to people when they die?
3. How do you think the words of Jesus (“Young man, I say to you, arise”) brought the dead son back to life?
4. The sermon suggests that Jesus’ words are effective and powerful whether or not they are heard, because Jesus is the Word of God through whom all things were created (John 1) – that is, his words have creative force. (See Genesis 1: God speaks creation into existence.) What does it mean for our faith if we think about Jesus’ word/s having this kind of power?
5. How do you understand the seemingly impossible metaphysics of the Ephesians reading: that we are to know the dimensions of Christ’s unknowable love, which also is in us; that we are to be filled with the fullness of God. What do these concepts mean to you?
6. Explore connections between the vastness of Christ’s love and the scope and power of his word.

* It’s awkward to give credit where it’s due while delivering a sermon, but the line about floating in the ocean while having a conversation about water was an allusion to David Foster Wallace’s Kenyon College commencement address, which is well worth reading if anyone has an interest in doing so. <https://fs.blog/2012/04/david-foster-wallace-this-is-water/>