

## **April 27 – Baptism Sunday – “The Riches of His Grace”** **(Small Group Questions)**

Read John 20:19-31.

The scripture passage tells us that Thomas was not there the first time that Jesus appeared to the disciples. Lyn suggested that perhaps he needed some time away.

1. Why do you think Thomas was not with the group? What other reasons might there have been?

In her sermon Lyn quoted Meister Eckhart, who wrote “God is like a person hiding in the dark who occasionally coughs giving himself away”. Lyn suggested that if we can hear Him cough He is not that far away.

2. Do you experience times when God seems far away?

The Dean of Southward Cathedral likened it to a 'muffled reality'. With Mary's experience at the tomb in mind Lyn suggested that sense of God being just beyond our grasp, we cannot cling onto even if we long to do so.

“It the longing,” said the Dean of Southwark Cathedral that is “the seed of faith. ”

Lyn said that a verse from the Song of Solomon address' that longing, and the fear of losing the beloved: “I sought him, but did not find him, I called him, but he gave not answer.”

3. Can you relate to that 'longing' or do you have a different reaction?

Thomas is perhaps unfairly called doubting Thomas, but his doubts were openly voiced, and then directly addressed by Jesus; “have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed”

4. What might the gospel writer have wanted his community, and in turn the Little Trinity community, to learn from this?
5. Do you experience times when God seems far away? How do you respond? Ie, read scripture, listen to music, meet with a prayer partner or spiritual guide, say nothing and hope God coughs more loudly

May our Lord bless and inspire your discussions.