



## Friday's Formation Note by Jamie Hall

### *Unexpected Supper Guests*

The Gospel for the third Sunday of Easter describes what must have been a slightly disconcerting, at best, supper.

We have the eleven remaining apostles – no doubt also some women – in an upper room in a non-descript house in Jerusalem. They are having supper and probably trying to figure out what to do next. Then **“Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ”**

Right. So would I. Mary Magdalene would not have – she knew full well that Jesus was alive (one of the, to me, most moving and beautiful short passages in all scripture), but the rest of them weren't quite so sure. And here He was. Last they knew for sure He'd been crucified and, in general, if you were crucified by the Romans you were quite dead. But here He was, standing there, He tried to convince them that He was quite real, but what finally did it was that He asked if they might give Him some fish from the meal to eat, and He ate it.

He then gave them instructions – marching orders, if you will. And His physical presence, there in the room with them eating supper, must have given them immense courage and reassurance, as they set out into a hostile world, no less hostile then than now, to live into and to preach the Gospel to anyone who would freely listen. It must have reassured them, that, as Martin Luther wrote some 15 centuries later, “Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill, God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever”. Sometimes we need to be reminded of Jesus' return to that upper room, and remember to hold fast to our faith, and seek to understand and follow what Jesus would have us do, however hard or unpopular it may be. Their reassurance is also ours and is found in words we know quite well 'I believe...'

For we have two creeds which we often say – so often, in fact, that there is a tendency to run them off and not stop and think about what

we are saying. In fact, they are carefully crafted, each word deliberately chosen. They are curiously different in places, but taken together they seem more complete. One critical place they differ is right at the end, and to me neither is complete without the other: the Apostolic Creed (most often used in Morning and Evening prayer) ends with "... and the resurrection of the body" in our English translation. The Nicene Creed (used in the Eucharist) ends with "... and the resurrection of the dead". They are not the same thing! The Latin of the Apostolic Creed unmistakably affirms the passage we are considering today: the resurrection of Jesus Christ and His physical appearance to the Apostles and, as we read elsewhere, a number of others. The Nicene Creed equally unmistakably affirms the resurrection of all who believe in Christ. In the words of Paul (1 Thessalonians 4:14 **"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."**)

The apostles believed that night when Jesus returned and ate with them. Let us draw from their faith and their witness as we go forth in Jesus' name.

*Jamie Hall*

St. John's Church, P.O. Box 27, Pine Meadow, CT. 06061

(860) 379-3062

Email: [office@reddoors.com](mailto:office@reddoors.com)

Website: [Reddoors.com](http://Reddoors.com)

---

// CONNECT WITH US //



St. John's Church | P.O. Box 27, 51 Church St., Pine Meadow, CT 06061

[Unsubscribe office@reddoors.com](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [office@reddoors.ccsend.com](mailto:office@reddoors.ccsend.com)