

**April 10, 2016**

Readings: Acts 9:1-6

John 21:1-19

## Back to where they began!

At least the disciples have managed to get themselves out from behind locked doors. As you may recall, when last we met them in John's Gospel, that is exactly where they were when they last encountered Jesus. Paralyzing fear can do that to us, of course, and perhaps it is so that the appearance of Jesus, not once, but twice, in that closed off room at least loosened the grip of that fear. And so, as we catch up with them today, at least Peter and the rest no longer seem to be held hostage by that sense of terror. In fact, it seems to me that today they have almost allowed themselves to go 'home.' Or at least to a place that felt a whole lot like home — particularly to those in the group who had been called away from their places on fishing boats just a few years before.



And so it is today as we meet them on the beach by the Sea of Tiberias, I can't help but wonder this:

*Why do you suppose Peter announced to his companions he was going fishing?*

Do you suppose it was because he did not know what else to do with himself during this in-between time as they waited for whatever was to come next? Do you suppose that is why Peter returned to what was most familiar before his world had been turned upside down?

Or rather, might we believe, part of Peter actually yearned to go back to when his world was simpler? You know, back before Jesus called him out of his ordinary life and led him on a journey he certainly could not have imagined for himself?

Or was it something else altogether?

In John's telling we are offered no motives, of course, so it is ours to fill in the blanks. And yet, I find it fitting, somehow and certainly in keeping with much of what I know of human nature and experience, that this would be Peter's impulse at this time. In times of crisis or uncertainty there is often a tendency to return to what we know the best. Maybe it stems from force of habit. Maybe it is simply comfortable. Or perhaps it is the result of our hope to recapture something we thought was forever lost.

And yet, if this was their hope or intent, it appears this is also so: there really could be no actual going back for the disciples:

- Not once they had met Jesus in story and meal, in healing and in hope.
- Not having confronted the worst in themselves even as they witnessed the best God had to give in Christ's suffering and dying.
- Not once they had glimpsed God's Promise fulfilled on Easter Day.

Indeed, how could they ever really go back? Or at least if they did, how could they go back unchanged by all they had experienced in the last three years, not to mention those last couple of weeks?

Indeed, maybe that is why there would not be a single fish caught that night. Maybe for all of what may have been their inclination to leave those last three years behind them, maybe in the depth of that long night where their nets hung listless from the side of the boat, maybe their hearts really weren't in it at all. And maybe in the quiet murmurs they shared with one another they recognized a common yearning to be part of something more again.

We can't know for sure whether the disciples were running from something or running towards something, or if they were just passing the time on the fishing boat that night. What we do know is this: Jesus met them there. He came to where they were and he appeared to them in a place which was perhaps familiar — which maybe felt something like 'home' but could never really be home again — and he served them breakfast. And then, singling Peter out, he spoke to them of all they will be called to now. No longer would they be hauling nets full of fish on shore at dawn — also meant to feed people — but they would be specifically called upon to feed those who also heard a call to something more. And just like the last time Jesus showed up and called them from their old lives to follow him, this call would also take them to places and people they surely could not yet imagine. And yet, with all of this, this is what I find myself wondering today:

- Do you suppose the disciples, much like all of us, had to make a definite choice this side of the Resurrection? And do you suppose that long night on the boat helped set the stage for them to decide to continue to follow Jesus into whatever came next?
- Do you think they were able to hear the voice of Jesus best in a place they knew so well? I mean, how often do we need to retreat to a place that is safe and sure and free from other distractions so we, too can hear the voice of God?
- Do you know what I mean when I say they couldn't really go back — at least not unchanged? If so, have you found this to be so in your life? What new understanding, what experience, what hard earned wisdom has led you to live your life differently — whether you actually changed physical location or not? And how has this been so in your seeking to follow Jesus?

By the Rev. Dr. Janet Hunt

## This Week at Inca



### Refugee Family - Update

In February Inca was matched with a Syrian refugee family living in Turkey. In a rare turn of events our family, a mother with two small children, declined coming to Canada because she didn't want to be separated from the rest of her extended family. In late March we were fortunate to be matched with another refugee family. This family is also from Syria but currently living in Lebanon. They are a husband and wife with a 3-year old son, a daughter who turns 2 in July and a baby on the way in mid-August. The wife understands a little bit of English. Both parents have high school level education. The husband is an electrician by trade. The refugee committee is busy preparing for their arrival. Their exact travel date is unknown at this time. Our best guess is that they will arrive in Oakville by the end of June.

Thank you everyone for all the generous donations of toys, household items and furniture for the refugee family. We have almost everything that a family will need. Here is a list of items we are still looking for:

- diaper bag, bouncy seat, play mat, activity centre, bassinet, infant clothing (onesies, sleepers, receiving blankets), washcloths
- laundry basket, drying rack, iron and ironing board, plunger
- broom and dust pan, bucket and mop
- tools
- tablet
- garbage cans for bathroom and bedrooms, small garbage bags
- fire extinguisher, batteries

If you have any of these items, please give them to Leslie Hickey



### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

### SHORT-TERM ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY

We're looking for housing in Oakville or Burlington for a family of five. The client is on the special priority list for subsidized housing through the Region, and we hope an offer will be made to her soon. In the interim, she needs to find transitional housing.

Please let Michael know if you have information about temporary housing options. Financial donations towards the accommodations gladly accepted as well.



### Parish Business

Michael will be away starting Monday April 11<sup>th</sup> and will return to the office on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Meetings:

Parish Council – Sunday, April 24 after the 10:00 Service

Please forward your reports to Jim Stevens by Friday, April 22 by 5pm



### Choir Practice –

The choir rehearses every Wednesday at 7:30. Share your voice, all welcome.

In April, rehearsals will take place on April 6 and April 20, and are cancelled April 13 and 27. In May the choir will meet on May 11 and 25, and May 4 and 18 are cancelled.



### Wing and a Prayer – Thursday, April 28, 2016

We meet at 6:30pm at Monaghan's. Cost: \$25 per person including food and drink. RSVP Rob Moniuk ([Robert@Moniuk.ca](mailto:Robert@Moniuk.ca)).

Everyone is welcome!



### Contemplative Fire – Sunday, April 17, 8:00pm.

Are you looking for time to reflect, meditate and recharge your spiritual life? Each meeting begins with a communal sharing of food followed by quiet and intentional reflection in the gathering area. The response to this has been very encouraging. We continue to see new faces at each meeting and look forward to growing this community. For more information, please speak to Michael. All are welcome.



### Bible Study – *Raising Issues*

begins May 5 Thursday evenings from 7:30-9pm

May 5, 12, 19, 26 and June 2, in the Education Room.

Led by Mervyn Russell, discussing one resurrection passage from each of the gospels and from 1st Corinthians. A study guide will be available on line at [mervicia@yahoo.ca](mailto:mervicia@yahoo.ca) or from the church office. No previous knowledge of the bible is necessary. All views are respected. There is no charge. Please contact Mervyn if you are interested in coming.

Continuing to Break the Silence



### Continuing to Break the Silence Workshop Series

Tuesdays 6-9:30pm at Incarnation

A series of three workshops to explore vital personal and relational areas of mental health.

Contact Karen Pitt for more information [karpitt@gmail.com](mailto:karpitt@gmail.com) 905-467-4780

April 12 - Suicide and Self-harm

April 19 - Caring for the Relationally Damaged



### Youth Group Events-

For info contact Phil Carver at [incayouthprogram@gmail.com](mailto:incayouthprogram@gmail.com)



### Niagara Youth Conference – August 28 to September 2, 2016

A caring, spiritual, participatory learning community that encourages inclusivity and personal growth - mitigated, of course, by fun and frivolity! This is a residential conference for youth ages 13-21. Early bird registration is now open. Details can be [found here](#)

## Community News



### Piano Recital – Sunday April 24 at 5pm, at Incarnation

Rare opportunity to see one of Oakville's up and coming solo pianists, Anna Betka as she prepares for international competitions.

Admission is \$20 for adults and \$15 for student/seniors. Tickets available at the door



### Earth Week Clean up Saturday, April 23, 9-11am

Pitch-in at one of 44 nature sites in Oakville and help make a difference for our health, biodiversity and the natural environment of our community. Details at [oakvillepeacecentre.org](http://oakvillepeacecentre.org)



### Interfaith Peace Walk Sunday May 15th from 12:30-2:30

Organized by the Interfaith Council of Halton in partnership with various community groups, houses of worship, schools and the Town of Oakville. Meet in Centennial Square to hear some words of inspiration and music before the walk begins.



### Mendelssohn's *Elijah*

Saturday, May 7 at 8pm – St. Matthew Catholic Church, Oakville

Sunday May 8 at 3pm, – Metropolitan United Church, Toronto

Presented by Masterworks of Oakville Chorus and Orchestra, with the Univox Choir of Toronto. Featuring our very own Charlene Pauls!

Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$25 for seniors and \$15 for students – children 10 and under are free. [www.masterworksofoakville.ca](http://www.masterworksofoakville.ca)

## This & That



### Buy Good Coffee – Available in the office

Delicious, organic, Arabica coffee grown by women in Peru who are paid above fair trade prices. \$15 for a 1lb bag, \$10 for a 10oz bag.

Remember, 30% of the proceeds will be donated to the missions of Incarnation.



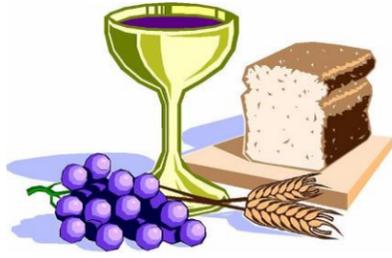
**Looking to volunteer?**

We have lots of way you can get involved. Positions include: altar prep, greeters, readers, hosts and coffee preparation. **Youth** can gain some volunteer high school hours. Training will be provided. Contact Claudine Boulert, at [boulert@rogers.com](mailto:boulert@rogers.com) for more information, or call 905-825-2851.



**Changes to Order of Service or Bulletin News** - Any changes need to be sent to the office by Tuesday, noon. [office@incarnationchurch.ca](mailto:office@incarnationchurch.ca)

**Nametags** let people know who you are and make it helpful for people to put names to faces, especially for newcomers



**Receiving Communion**

All people at Incarnation are invited to receive the bread and wine at communion. The bread is received from the priest who stands between the servers who offer wine from the common cup; choose whatever side is free. You may choose to receive from an individual wine cups available to the left of the altar. Take one, consume the wine and replace the empty cup in the same spot. We hope this provides an inclusive approach to communion where all are welcome.

VOLUNTEER!	April 10	April 17
<b>Bread Making</b>	B. Gowing	J. Lockhart
<b>Altar Prep</b>	B. Hanna-Morrison	M. Stevens
<b>Coffee</b>	P. Russell	Adensamer
<b>Coffee</b>	Jenkins	Bowden
<b>Host</b>	K. Wilson	L. Bird
<b>Reader 1</b>	A. Tuner-Sommer	B. Gowing
<b>Gospel</b>	A. MacNaughton	M. Russell
<b>Prayers</b>	K. Pitt	V. Klayh
<b>Server 1</b>	J. Stevens	K. Pitt
<b>Server 2</b>	P. Moffat	D. Bold
<b>Wine Cups</b>	E. Lorimer	Z. Boulert
<b>Counting</b>	P. Moffat	G. Hughes