

VIA LUCIS - FORGIVENESS

As preached on Sunday, June 26th

Read: John 20:19-23

1. This week the Apostle John describes the same scene in Jerusalem that Luke did in last week's text. What is similar about their versions? What is different? Do the differences concern you or do they add texture to the scene?
2. Why do the believers have the doors locked? In what ways has this passage, and others like it, led to antisemitism?
3. Jesus simply came and stood among them. Did he move through those locked doors supernaturally? Why doesn't John say anything about this?
4. What is significant about Jesus' offer of peace (Shalom) in vv.19-21?
5. In v.22 Jesus breathes on them and offers the Holy Spirit. How is this different from Pentecost? When do people receive the Holy Spirit today?
6. What do you make of Jesus' curious statement in v.23 about both forgiving and not forgiving? How might this be tied to the mission Jesus has just called his followers to?
7. In what way does Jesus offer forgiveness to his followers when he enters their presence? What did he require of them?
8. How can we ensure that this same offer of forgiveness by sheer grace remains central to our faith in Christ and the story we tell of Jesus in the world?