



April 24, 2019

JESUS ROSE, COOKED FISH

What is it like to experience an encounter with the resurrected Christ?

The gospels each record different memories after the resurrection. In the gospel of John, the third appearance of the risen Christ to his disciples is beside a lake where they have gone out fishing in boats. When the disciples come ashore, they discover that Jesus is cooking fish over a fire. Jesus rose from the dead, and then he cooked fish.

The disciples drew near to the risen Christ, around the fire, and he gave them bread and fish—a reminder, surely, of how they used to share bread and fish to feed thousands. Jesus fed them. And then he gave them a vision for their lives, which was to offer both physical and spiritual nourishment to others. He said to Peter, “Feed my sheep.”

Likewise, the first mission of the church is to feed people, both physically and spiritually. Week after week, worship is a spiritual nourishment. In hymns, prayers, and reflection on the scripture, we are inspired, grounded, and encouraged in the love of God. We are fed by our learning and our fellowship in the church community, and this nourishment leads to service.

During the week, we take in so much that wears us down, depletes our energy, or fills us with anger. We need the risen Christ, embodied in the church community, inviting us to draw close around the fire, to be fed and nourished, to be rested and inspired.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster
Senior Minister