Breaking Bread week 12

Hello everyone,

       Jesus is risen, alleluia, or as we might say these days, “Yeesss.” Praise be to God. Death hasn’t had the final word, but instead, death has been overcome; evil and sin have been defeated. We are in the era of new life, fresh hope and renewed horizons that have come ever more sharply into focus.

           Our reading this week could be from any of the gospels, but the lectionary gives us either Luke 24: 1-12 or John 20: 1-18. Please read them both prayerfully. As I read them, the thing that dawns on me is the way the resurrection of Jesus gradually dawns on those who are close to him, the disciples and the women. From a sense of being totally bereft, they move towards wonderment and joy, and importantly, belief.

             Our theme hymn, Break thou the Bread of Life, says this, ”O send thy Spirit Lord, now unto me that he may touch my eyes and make me see.” My prayer is that our eyes may be opened to the presence of the Risen Lord Jesus in our lives.

             And this is all about LIFE. Jesus is the Bread of LIFE; he is the Resurrection and the LIFE; he is the Way, the Truth and the LIFE. He is the Good Shepherd who said, “I have come that they may have LIFE and have it abundantly.” The Risen Jesus leads us into LIFE in all its fullness. It’s about LIFE rather than simply existing and it’s open to us all.

              When we share Communion before Easter, at the Breaking of the Bread, we largely recall the broken body of Jesus, given for us. But then, after Easter, we can see the Breaking of the Bread as being like the breaking open of the tomb, allowing Jesus to be let loose in the world and into our lives, bringing his renewed life, eternal life, and enabling us to live now in anticipation of that life that is to come.

                I encourage you to pray for someone you know that their eyes may be opened to the living presence of Jesus and to the difference he brings to LIFE itself.

                    Happy Easter,
                            Graham

 *Produced by Graham Wassell on behalf of the Bents Green Holy Habits Planning Group (Debs Barnett, Glenn Evans, Martyn Read, Graham Wassell, Daphne and John Wilkins).  You can find more information on the Circuit Holy Habits Programme on the Sheffield Methodist Circuit website and also the Sheffield Methodist Circuit Facebook page.*