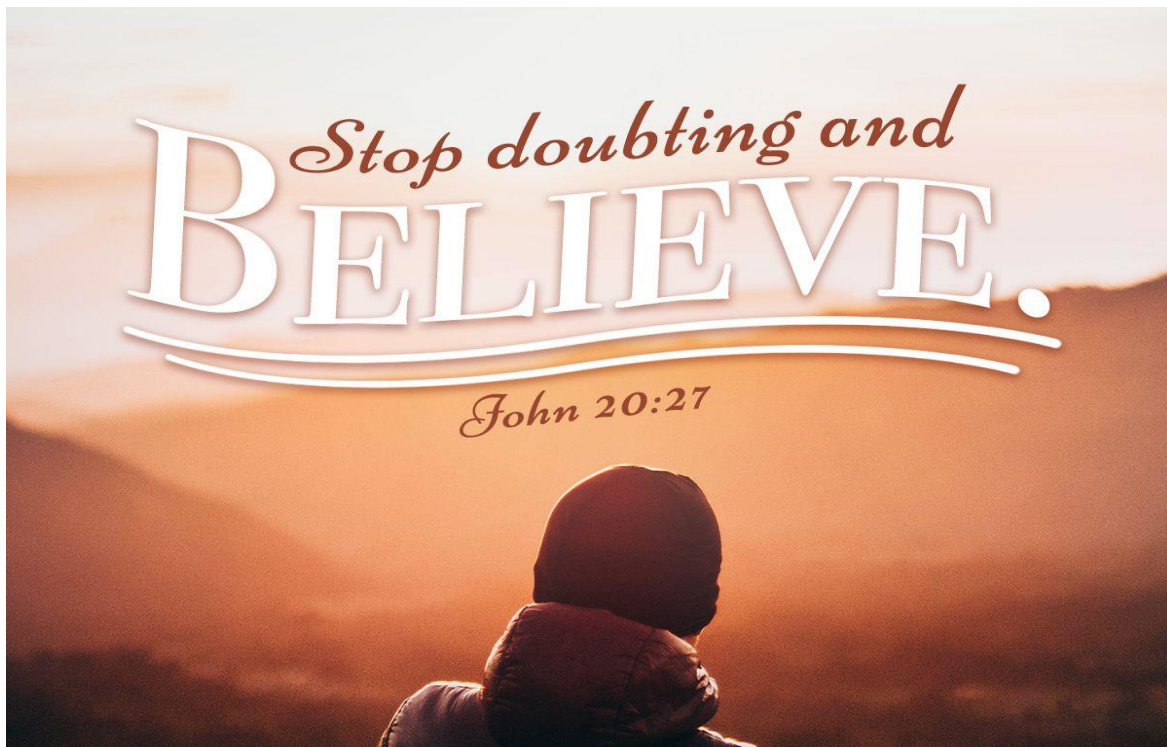


Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

25/04/2021 -- Disciples in Question

Thomas



Next week is our zoom

“Church & Chat”

A short church reflection with a hymn, reading, (children’s activity), prayer, “thought for the week” and then a time to chat. If you need help to join please ask any deacon

Join us next week at 10 am:

Topic: Church and Chat

Time: This is a recurring meeting

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75124173520?pwd=QVB4WUx6QXg3Y3hQc1NQYkxINmozZz09>

Meeting ID: 751 2417 3520

Passcode: Bethel2021

All lockdown services can be found at: www.mbccs.co.uk

Jesus replied, 'Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig-tree, but also you can say to this mountain, "Go, throw yourself into the sea," and it will be done.
Matthew 21:21

Good morning and welcome to this week's thoughts.

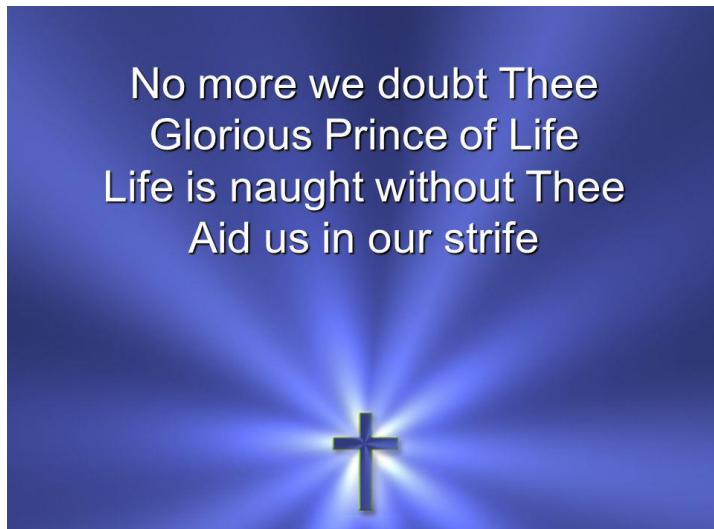
Our hymn for today is: "Thine be the Glory" [Thine Be the Glory \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

1. Thine be the glory,
Risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won;
Angels in bright raiment
Rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes
Where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory,
Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won!*

2. Lo, Jesus meets us,
Risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us,
Scatters fear and gloom;
Let the Church with gladness
Hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth,
Death hath lost its sting.

*Thine be the glory,
Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won!*



3. No more we doubt thee,
Glorious Prince of life;
Life is naught without thee:
Aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conquerors
Through thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan
To thy home above:

*Thine be the glory,
Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won!*

The reading is John 20: 24-29 [John 20:24-29 NIVUK - Jesus appears to Thomas - Now Thomas - Bible Gateway](#)

24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord!' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.'

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' 27 Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.'

28 Thomas said to him, 'My Lord and my God!'

29 Then Jesus told him, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'

Can you Believe without seeing

Our disciple this week is Thomas. He is often called “doubting Thomas” – but is that fair? If you put yourself in his shoes, how would you have reacted? I am sure that if I had seen a friend die on a cross and been moved to a tomb, I would be very skeptical if my other friends had said they had seen them. I am aware that Jesus had told them that he would rise again, but I still think I would not believe them, and I am sure I would believe Jesus didn’t actually mean he would rise from death.

This has made me think about what we do or do not believe. What if I told you that I have climbed Mount Everest? Would you believe that? I may have done; I have climbed many mountains and most of you know I have been up Snowdon so this is plausible.

What if I told you I brushed my teeth this morning? I hope you all believe that, but you didn’t watch me do it, so you would have to take my word for it.

I guess you all believe there is oxygen in the air, but none of us can see it, but we believe it is there.

In today’s reading, Thomas had a hard time believing what others tried to tell him. The story of Jesus appearing to his disciples after Easter is so exciting. Imagine watching Him die, and feeling so upset, and then seeing Him alive again! But Thomas missed out.

He wasn’t there in the room when Jesus came, and didn’t see him personally. He didn’t believe what the other disciples told him about seeing Jesus and promised that he wouldn’t believe it until he saw Jesus face to face. When Jesus did show up later, and showed His wounds, Thomas must have felt embarrassed and probably disappointed in himself. However, Jesus didn’t give up on Thomas but came closer to him showed the wounds and explained to Thomas “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen, and yet still believe.”

Jesus was commending people who believed in Him without witnessing face to face. Jesus was referring to us! We haven’t physically seen Jesus, but we can still believe in Him.

How do we know about Jesus? We might hear about Jesus from other people, and that is great. But we have the word of GOD, we have the Bible.

In order to trust someone or something, we have to know that it is trustworthy. God has most definitely proved Himself trustworthy. He does what He says He’ll do. His promises are real and are true.

The Bible gives us great hope. We can’t see God necessarily, but we see His evidence and know He gives us life. The Bible is God’s word, given to us so that we can know and believe!

Our Salvation Army leaflet a couple of weeks ago shared these thoughts:

“For all of us who have doubts and questions in our faith, we can be reassured that Jesus can handle our doubts. His relationship with us is strong enough - He himself is strong enough - to cope with our doubts and questions and is faithful to answer them with us as we seek Him.”

Today's Pray:

Lord, it's not always easy to trust you or to follow you.

But I thank you that even in my doubting and uncertainty, You know exactly what I need.

Thank you that although I can't see you, I am deeply seen and known by you. I surrender once again to the journey of faith. Amen.

Hannah Heather

Believe It or Not!

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." John 20:25

Based on John 20:19-31 (NIV)



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JESUS	TOGETHER	DOUBTING	RECORDED
MIRACLES	SIGNS	SHOWED	BELIEVED
DOORS	LIFE	HANDS	DISCIPLES
TOUCHED	THOMAS	SIDE	LOCKED

