



Spirit of the Lake (Milky Way sometime between moon set and sun rise) Kris Williams Llyn Llydaw, Wales

The Fruit of the Spirit: Peace

As we enter the Easter Season, the ‘Great 50 Days’ of celebrating Jesus’ resurrection, I am reminded that Jesus’ favorite greeting after he was raised from the dead was “peace be with you!” In John 14:27, during Jesus’ last conversation with his disciples before his death, he says “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you”, then he greets them with the words “peace be with you” twice on Easter Evening, when he first appears to the gathered disciples (John 20:19) and again after showing them his hands and his side (v. 21). A week later, when Thomas has rejoined the others, he says it to the disciples a third time (v. 26). Luke reports that Jesus greeting

the disciples in the same way when he appears to them following their encounter on the road to Emmaus (Lk 24:36).

It is also one of the Apostle Paul's favorite greetings, appearing at the beginning of Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 2 Timothy, Titus & Philemon. It is also in the greeting of 1 Peter.

We "pass the peace" with each other in church, although the last few weeks we were together we practiced "no touch" sharing.

My favorite "peace" of all is the peace which passes all understanding of Philippians 4:7.

The peace that passes all understanding is a gift of God. It passes "all understanding" when it comes at moments when we don't expect it. Moments when we are dealing with loss; moments of extreme loneliness or too many hours alone with the kids. Moments like this.

May God grant you the peace which passes all understanding during this time of sheltering in place. Amen.