



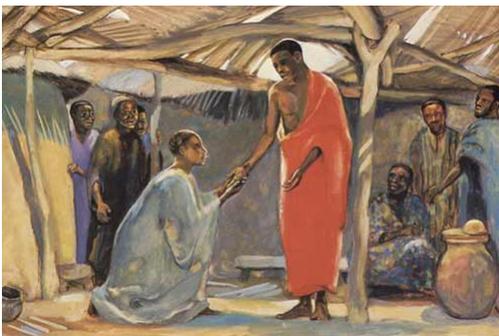
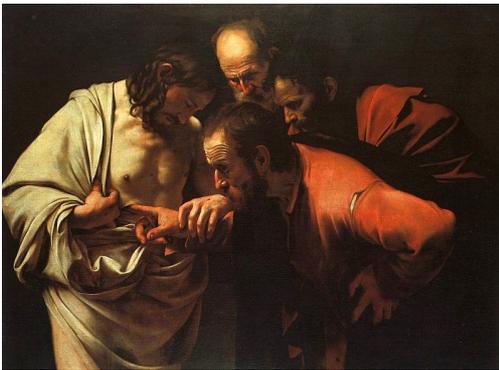
Church at Home for Abridge 19th April 2020 First Sunday after Easter

Further resources for worship and reflection

Thinking about doubt and faith

'For many people in our world, the opposite of faith is doubt. The goal, then, within this understanding, is to eliminate doubt. But faith and doubt aren't opposites. Doubt is often a sign that your faith has a pulse, that it's alive and well and exploring and searching. Faith and doubt aren't opposites, they are, it turns out, excellent dance partners'. Rob Bell

During the 40 days after Easter, the friends of Jesus had to get to know Jesus in a new way. He would eventually, as is true for us, be with his followers by his Spirit not in the flesh; real but invisible, so he could be with everybody, everywhere, for always. In today's story Thomas came to believe in Jesus though honest doubt.



Thomas had been away that night and when they told him what had happened, he did not believe them.

He had doubt in his bones.

'I won't believe until I can touch his wounds,' he said.

And why wouldn't he have doubt?

All their minds were being stretched... stretched... stretched... to be big enough to know Jesus in a new way.

A week later they were gathered again in the room and Thomas was there.

A voice said. 'Peace be with you'.

It was Jesus and this time he went straight up to Thomas and held out his hands. 'Touch me.'

All Thomas could do was fall on his knees and say, 'My Lord and my God'

Jesus looked at him a long time

Do you believe because you've seen?

He looked around the circle and said,

'Blessed are those who have **not** seen but believe'.

And then he was gone!

This was the third time that Jesus taught them to know him in a new way.

[Here](#) is a reflective song by Michael Squires that is inspired by another story of doubt and faith in Matthew 9:24

Final thought and prayer

Believing, *not doubting*, Thomas

It wasn't unbelieving doubt that shut faithful Thomas out,
But knowing where what was true, would lead him to.

Thomas declared, 'My Lord and my God'

