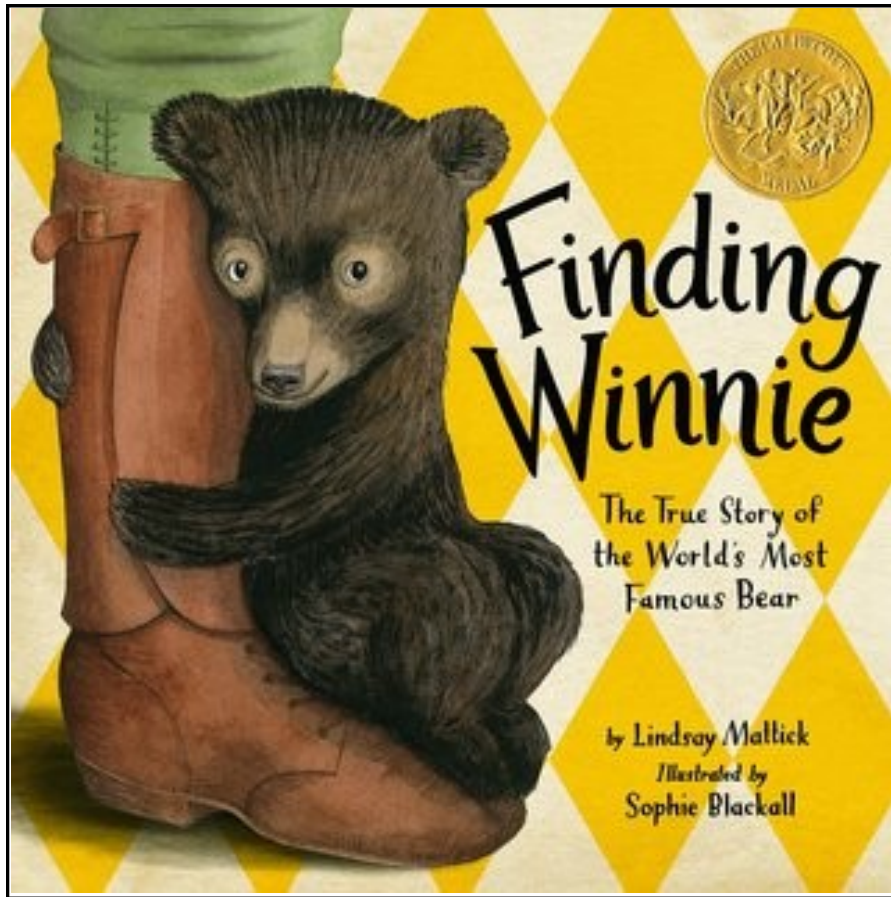


Living Grace

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

"CHRIST IS ALIVE, CAN YOU SEE HIM?"



In *Finding Winnie*, we meet Captain Harry Colebourn, a Canadian veterinarian in World War 1, on his way to serve with cavalry units in Europe, rescued a bear cub in White River, Ontario. He named the bear Winnie, after his hometown of Winnipeg, and he took the bear to war. Harry Colebourn's real-life great-granddaughter, Lindsay Mattick, recounts their incredible journey, from a northern Canadian town, to a convoy across the ocean, to an army base in England., and finally to the London Zoo, where Winnie made a new friend, a boy named Christopher Robin. Here is the remarkable true story of the bear who inspired Winnie-the-Pooh.

Read aloud video link:
[findingwinnie_LG_readaloud](#)

Sunday Gospel

LUKE 24:13-35

That very day, the first day of the week,
two of Jesus' disciples were going
to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus,
and they were conversing about all the things that had
occurred.

And it happened that while they were conversing and
debating,

Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,
but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

He asked them,

"What are you discussing as you walk along?"

They stopped, looking downcast.

One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply,

"Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem

who does not know of the things

that have taken place there in these days?"

And he replied to them, "What sort of things?"

They said to him,

"The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene,

who was a prophet mighty in deed and word

before God and all the people,

how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over
to a sentence of death and crucified him.

But we were hoping that he would be the one to
redeem Israel;

and besides all this,

it is now the third day since this took place.

Some women from our group, however, have
astounded us:

they were at the tomb early in the morning
and did not find his body;

they came back and reported

that they had indeed seen a vision of angels

who announced that he was alive.

Then some of those with us went to the tomb
and found things just as the women had described,
but him they did not see."

And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are!

How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!

Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer
these things

and enter into his glory?"

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,

he interpreted to them what referred to him

in all the Scriptures.

As they approached the village to which they were going,
he gave the impression that he was going on farther.

But they urged him, "Stay with us,

for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."

So he went in to stay with them.

And it happened that, while he was with them at table,
he took bread, said the blessing,

broke it, and gave it to them.

With that their eyes were opened and they
recognized him,

but he vanished from their sight.

Then they said to each other,

"Were not our hearts burning within us

while he spoke to us on the way and opened the
Scriptures to us?"

So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem
where they found gathered together

the eleven and those with them who were saying,
"The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared
to Simon!"

Then the two recounted

what had taken place on the way

and how he was made known to them in the breaking
of bread.



RISEN CHRIST ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Woven Tapestry ~ Created after 1965

Bose Monastic Community ~ Magnano, Italy

EXPLORING THE ART:

The intricate tapestry work at the Monastery of Bose uses a very ancient handweaving technique. A design is first enlarged to a full-size "cartoon" (outline). This cartoon is then attached behind the warp (vertical yarns), in order to reproduce the outline of the original painting on the tapestry. The skill of each weaver is based on the ability to interpret the original design with the special handweaving technique. To preserve the detail and richness of the artistic features of the original painting, a number of different wool and silk yarns are combined on the same skein to create a vast range of detail and color.

The tapestry making at the Monastery of Bose - as well as other crafts such as pottery, metalwork, icon painting, carpentry, typography and publishing, jam and honey making - is part of the tradition of "ora et labora" (pray and work) as outlined in the 6th century monastic Rule of St. Benedict. Part of this practice is the idea that through work, we create things, and when we create things we are co-operating with God the Creator. When we co-create with God, we are exercising part of the God-like image in which we were made.

CO-CREATING WITH GOD

Making the Connections

FOR ADULTS

WE MEET THE RISEN JESUS, IN THE ONE WHO WALKS ALONGSIDE US, UNTIL OUR HEARTS CAN *SEE* AND THEN RISE.

The Road to Emmaus is one of the most famous stories in the bible. After Jesus' death, even in the midst of grief and sorrow, there was still something alive in each one of his disciples - the very ones that denied him. Jesus' words and actions were alive and stirring within their hearts. Stories were emerging of an empty tomb and that Jesus had been sighted. Could this be? The disciples were walking home from Jerusalem, conversing and debating about all the events. Jesus began to walk along side of them, but they could not see that it was Him. Why? Today, it can also be difficult for us to understand Jesus' rising and its meaning.

At the beginning of our children's story Harry and the other soldiers, like the disciples, are filled with fear and confusion as they embark on a long journey. When Harry meets a bear cub, his mind tells him that he can not invite a bear to go with them, "but his heart tells him he must". Harry listens to his heart, and Winnie joins the men. This experience changes their hearts and brings them joy, strengthening them for the tasks ahead. This is what the Risen Jesus does for us on our own journey. Harry takes a risk by trusting his heart, and a whole new story begins.

Jesus renounced the disciples for being "slow of heart not to believe all that the prophets spoke", but the disciples finally begin to trust their hearts when they say to Jesus to "stay with us". Jesus stayed, and when he broke bread with them, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. That is the Easter Experience - to SEE Jesus.

Like Jesus, we are called to walk alongside people - to stay with them until they see the presence of Christ Risen alive, burning in hearts of Christians all over the world.

Making the Connections

FOR CHILDREN

YOUR STORY: When have you met someone who was different or unexpected? What kind of feelings came up as you listened and learned about this person? Did it change your way of thinking a bit? Did it inspire your heart in some new ways?

THE CHILDRENS' STORY: How did Harry's meeting Winnie change both of them? What did Harry's head tell him? What did his heart tell him? What did he do? Did Harry and the soldiers want Winnie to stay? Why did they let her go to the zoo? What new story began because they let Winnie go? How were their hearts changed by Winnie?

THE GOSPEL STORY: Were the disciples able to see Jesus at first? What changed for the disciples on the Road to Emmaus? Why do you think their hearts wanted him to stay? Did they become able to see Jesus with their hearts? What new story began on the Road to Emmaus?

How do we "see" the Risen Jesus with our hearts? How can we help others "see" him, too?

Biblical Background

LUKE 24:13-25

GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING: The two disciples began their journey on the “first day of the week” which for the Jewish population would be Sunday afternoon. In the western world we mark time by a solar based calendar, so our day begins as the sunrises. Jewish people follow a lunar calendar, so the day begins at sundown. The disciples leave Jerusalem in the late afternoon, and it is nearly sundown by the time they arrive at Emmaus about seven miles away. They timed their journey to arrive at Emmaus by sundown, as nighttime travel would be dangerous.

TERMS: *“Prophet mighty in deed and word”* This is how the two men describe Jesus in their conversation with the Risen Jesus, which would be in the model of the Prophets Elijah or Elisha. Both of these prophets spoke the word of God to Kings and elders and performed miracles. In the eyes of these disciples Jesus was as great as any other Prophet who had come before him.

“Disciples” This word reveals that these men were students of Jesus and that he was their Rabbi, or teacher, a very important role in New Testament times. These two disciples were committed followers of Jesus, and their hopes were dashed when they witnessed the events surrounding the crucifixion.

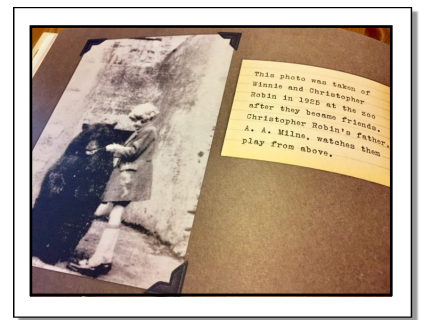
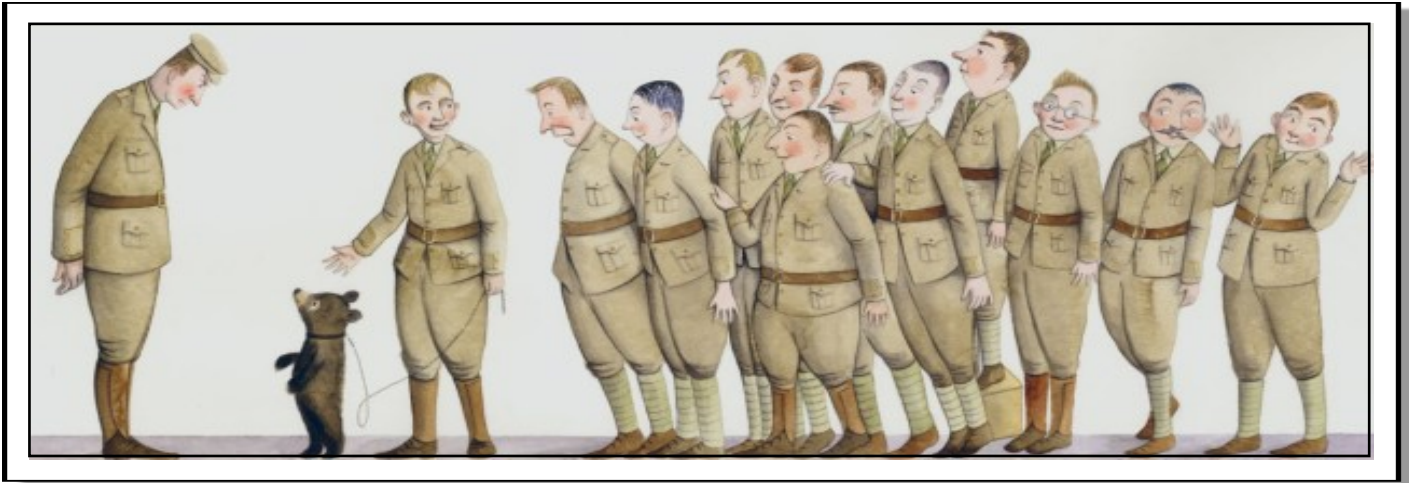
Beginning with Moses and all the prophets” This is the way that a Jewish person of faith refers to the entire collection of books that Christians know as the Old Testament. Moses is the ascribed “narrative” author of the first five books which are called the Torah. All the other books are prophetic in that God spoke through the sacred authors, both men and women. When God speaks through a person to the people, that person is known as a prophet.

CULTURAL INSIGHT: Traveling in groups was typical in the Middle East of Jesus’ time. Joining groups and engaging in conversation allowed time to pass more quickly on long journeys. Jesus appears and begins to converse with the disciples but they do not recognize who they are speaking to. How is that possible? They recall that when Jesus was teaching them about how the Messiah had to suffer their “hearts were burning within them”. In the world of the Bible, thinking is done with the heart and not the mind. The heart is the “emotive infused mind space” of the Middle Eastern world. As Jesus taught about how the Messiah was destined to suffer, we today would say our minds were “reeling”, as everything he taught made more and more sense.

INSIGHT INTO MEANING: Faith and action are complimentary as we see in the Emmaus story. A loss of faith leads to despair. The disciples move away from the center, as they leave Jerusalem to go home. Along the way they encounter the risen Jesus. It takes time, but they eventually recognize him in his Bible teaching and in the breaking of the bread. This is what good church is all about - breaking open the Word and the experience of communion. Emboldened by the risen Lord, the disciples become fearless. They leave their village and travel by night back to Jerusalem and into the Upper Room. When they find the other disciples gathered behind locked doors and afraid, they exclaim, “We have seen the Lord! He lives!” We must stay connected to the Word and to Breaking of the Bread in our church. These practices will lead to a fresh recognition of Jesus, who is present in both.

Family Activities

SHARING THE MISSION AT HOME
AND IN THE WORLD



QUESTION OF THE WEEK: How has your heart been awakened this Easter? How might you as a family choose to walk along people until they rise?

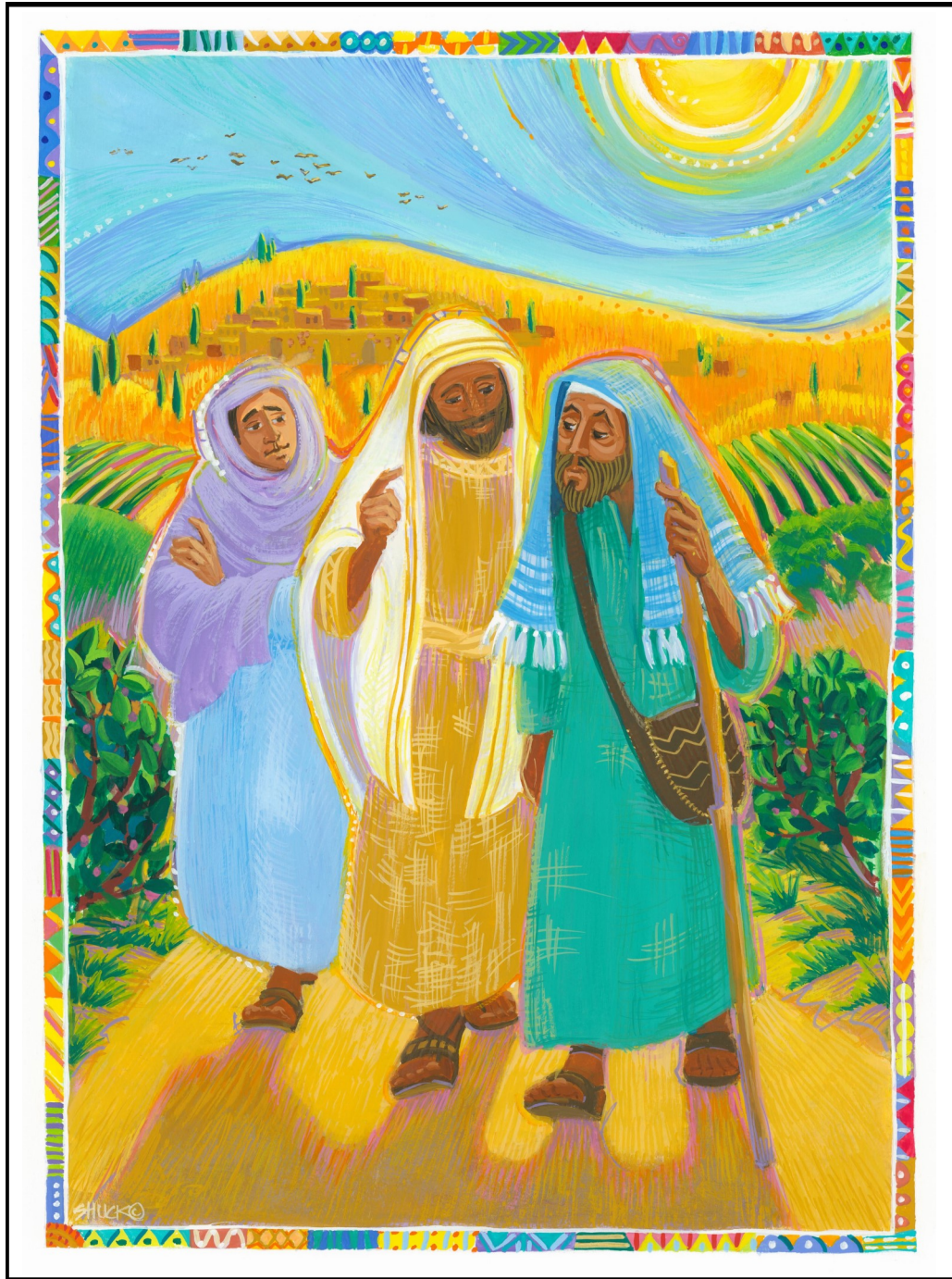
CHARACTER QUALITIES: TRUSTING HEARTS & COMPANIONSHIP

FAMILY ACTIVITIES: Last Easter Sunday, I saw Christ Risen when out on a morning bike ride. I came across a happy couple hiking in the desert. They recognized me, and I recognized them. We were old friends! A few years back this couple lost their son in the war in Afghanistan. A young life, so full of promise, was now lost. Like Mary, they had lost their son, but I saw Christ risen in them. There they were on this Easter morning, their hearts filled with joy and gratitude for all the gifts all around them. I could feel the work and presence of the Risen Christ in them. My heart was awake, and I could recognize Jesus alive. I thought, "Wow! This is what it must have been like for the disciples on the road to Emmaus." My heart was stirred, moved, and inspired.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to walk alongside people until they rise. That is what Jesus did for the two disciples in today's Gospel. He accompanied them in their loss and grief. He stayed with them. He ate with them. He talked and walked and conversed with them until they could SEE.

Task: Commit as a family for the next week to look for Christ Risen in the people and circumstances around you. Make a Christ Risen "Siting Poster", and add to it each day. Look in the news, in your neighborhood, and at historical events. Can you now SEE, Christ Alive? You too, are growing the Easter Experience. Pray together as a family to find ways to stay AWAKE throughout the Easter Season, growing Christ Alive all around you!

Gospel Illustration



"ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS"
by Vicki Shuck

*As we come together throughout life's challenges and losses, for us too, Christ Risen will appear.
In His presence our hearts will be enlivened, our eyes will be opened, and we believe it is true...He lives!*