**Notes on Lectionary Readings - APRIL 12-18, 2021**

**Encountering God: A Child Shall Lead**

[Extract from Disciplines 2021: Upper Room]

SCRIPTURE OVERVIEW: A repeating theme in scripture is our failure to recognize God's work among us. In what places in our lives do we not recognize God's work?

**Read Acts 3:12-19**. Peter declares that the death of Jesus happened because his fellow Israelites acted in ignorance.
**Situation** - Peter speaks to the onlookers
**Questions** - Recall a moment when you felt the presence of Christ in your life in an unexpected way. How does that moment stay with you in the times when you feel overwhelmed?
**Prayer** – O God, as the risen Christ, you show up in my lifetime and time again and I am filled with wonder! Thank you! In the name of Christ. Amen.

**Read Psalm 4**. The psalmist decries the fact that so many people follow lies, yet God's blessings for the faithful continue unhindered.
**Theme** - Rejoicing in God's protection and peace. We can place our confidence in God because He will listen when we call on Him.
**Questions** - Do you feel free to cry out to God when you are in distress? If not, what inhibits you?
**Prayer** – O Lord, in my times of pain and distress, remind me that you love me as parents love their baby. Give me the courage to cry out to you, trusting in your love so that I may find the joy rest and peace only you can give to me. In Christ name. Amen.

**Read 1 John 3:1-7**. John tells his audience to expect that the world will not recognize them as God's children because the world did not recognize God to begin with.
**Situation** - Being Children of God.
**Questions** - How does your identity as a child of God empower you to deeds of love in your daily life?
**Prayer** – O Lord, I am proud and happy to know that I am your beloved child. Help me to share Your love with all those I meet today for they are your children to. In Christ name. Amen.

**Read Luke 24:36b-48**. Jesus appears to his doubting disciples. He proves the reality of his resurrection by allowing them to touch his body and by eating food in their presence. Only then, do they feel certain that they recognize Him.
**Situation** - Jesus appears to the disciples twice.
**Questions** - What story of the risen Christ do you have to share with others? How will you share your story?
**Prayer** – O God I have seen your glory and experienced your presence in my life. I hear your call to share my story with others because like the first disciples, I am a witness of all these things in the name of Christ. Amen.

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