Breaking Bread 11

Hello everyone,

         This is Holy Week and we are called to follow the last days of Jesus’ earthly life as he moves towards the Cross at Calvary. Our reading this week is long, the Passion Narrative from Luke 22: 14- 23:56. I think the least we can do in response to Jesus’ sacrifice for us is to read it prayerfully and imaginatively so that we can enter into the events of those momentous days.

          The passage begins with the Last Supper, which, for me, is the defining moment of the whole Breaking Bread theme. “Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” (Luke 22:19)

            The bread represents the body of Jesus, broken and shared out amongst those who participate in this sacramental act. But there is something significant about doing this “in remembrance “ of Jesus. It can’t be simply recollecting what Jesus has said and done. There must be more to it than that.

             If we talk about “re-membering”, then there is an element of “putting back together again” or “joining together”. So, when we do this in re-membrance, in communion together, we are indeed re-membering or putting back together or joining together the broken Body of Christ. Or as Paul puts it in 1 Corinthians 10:17, “we who are many are one body because we all partake of the one bread.”

           This brings us back to one of the themes that has cropped up recently in these emails. The great miracle, the amazing paradox of the death of Jesus on the Cross is that his brokenness brings about a making whole of those who participate in him by faith. Wholeness and re-membering go together, so that the vision is of a church made whole, re-membered, the Body of Christ. That’s you and me and all of us, in Christ.
            And we re-enact that and we confirm it every time we Break Bread together, doing it in remembrance of and in our Lord Jesus Christ.

             God bless this Holy Week,
                       Graham

 *Produced by Graham Wassell on behalf of the Bents Green Holy Habits Planning Group (Debs Barnett, Glenn Evans, Martyn Read, Graham Wassell, Daphne and John Wilkins).  You can find more information on the Circuit Holy Habits Programme on the Sheffield Methodist Circuit website and also the Sheffield Methodist Circuit Facebook page.*