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Mission From His Wounds  
*John 20:19-23*  
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*Wounded by Kathy Self*  
Part of Picturing Grace VAM exhibit, 2016

## **Background**

We gather in worship to remind ourselves who God is, what he has done in Christ and what he is doing through his Spirit. Our desire is to praise God and receive afresh his Spirit in us, to affirm that we are family reconciled one to another and to be empowered to reach out to the world.

## **Sermon Text: *John 20:19-23* (ESV)**

### ***I. The Mission Given (v 19-21)***

<sup>19</sup> *On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being*

*locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."*

## **II. The Mission's Empowerment (v 22-23)**

*<sup>22</sup> And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."*

### **Discussion Questions**

#### **1. Preparation**

- a. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- b. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- c. What stands out to you the most from this sermon?

#### **2. Sermon Questions**

a. Disciples in the upper room were gathered together behind locked doors afraid, anxious and confused. Jesus's appearance re-oriented them with "Peace be with you". Could you describe your experience of re-orientation by Jesus? Attending Sunday worship? Participation in connection group? Morning devotions? Or any other ways?

b. Jesus' wounds illustrate that Jesus embodies the following: 1. Person-Messiah of strength-in-weakness. 2. Posture-Mercy not condemnation. 3. Pattern- Self-sacrifice and self-giving love. 4. Peace-He is the source of peace.

Which one is the most meaningful to you and why?

c. Jesus sent disciples as Father has sent Him. He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit". How important is Holy Spirit in your daily life? How important is Holy Spirit for us to carry out God's mission?

d. We participate in Mission because we have missional God and missional church. How are you participating in the Mission?

e. Joy, peace and forgiveness are three key points that characterize our lives as believers are scattered around the world. Can you elaborate on these three points in your Christian life?