

CRUCIFIED HANDS JOHN 20:24-29

How did Jesus use His hands? I can think of 5 ways:

- **making things out of wood** – Joseph (his dad!) was the village carpenter in Nazareth. Jesus followed his dad into the family business and made things for people, chairs, tables, boxes, doors. So Jesus worked as a carpenter, and did it for more than 15 years before He gave up to travel as a teacher, a leader, and then to become the Saviour.
- **healing people** – when He began to travel, He met people who needed help, sick people, blind, deaf people, people in need, children, old people, men and women, all sorts of people in all sorts of places and He healed them. He touched them with His hands and through His hands, power and love came from God and people were healed.
- **holding little children** – it was evening, Jesus had been busy and some women came with their little children; Jesus' friends tried to chase them away, but Jesus said 'No, let them come' and they came and Jesus took little children in His arms and said "*The kingdom...*" (Lk 18:16)
- **washing the feet of His friends** – It was the night before He died, and Jesus and His friends were in an upstairs room eating a meal together (the Last Supper) and before the meal, Jesus took a basin of water and a towel and went round the room washing their feet; some felt embarrassed that Jesus, their Lord, their Master, should be kneeling on the floor at their feet washing them; their feet were a bit smelly; it was a job that a servant should do; but Jesus did it and washed everyone's feet round that table.
- **being crucified** – Thomas was not sure. Everyone else had seen Jesus. They said that Jesus is alive again after they'd all watched Him die on the cross. Thomas hadn't been there when Jesus came; so he didn't know what to believe. "*Unless I...*" (Jn 20:25) The next week, Jesus came to visit His friends and this time Thomas was there, Jesus said to him: "*Put...*" (20:27) Thomas saw Jesus' crucified hands and knew that Jesus is alive; He once died on a cross, but then was raised, with the marks on His hands.

Making things out of wood shows us hands that can create things. All other four ways in which Jesus used His hands are about showing love for people. He healed people because He loved and cared for them and wanted them to be well; when He took little children in His arms He said to everyone that little children are important, that God loves them; when He washed His friends' feet, again He showed them how much He loved them, that He loved them so much that He was willing to get down on His knees to wash their smelly, dirty feet. Most of all, His crucified hands tell us that Jesus loved us enough to die for us. He died to take away all wrong things that we do; He died to make us friends with God again, to open up way for us to love God back. Jesus did that because He loved us and knew that we couldn't do this for ourselves. His crucified hands show us that His love for us is huge, and strong, and that His love lasts forever, that He will love us always and everywhere.

Where do you go tomorrow? To School, or work, or hospital, or to a dentist appointment. What bothers you? Someone has died, you are ill, or you've fallen out with your friend. All of these things make us frightened or worried.

The man who wrote Psalm 139 was like you and me, but he knew that whatever bothered him, God was with him everywhere he went. He wrote "*Your right...*" (Ps 139:10) God's hand was holding him, making him safe and secure, God's love was round him no matter where he went, no matter what he had to face. God's love is with us everywhere we go, His right hand holds us safe and secure; Jesus' crucified hands show us how great God's love for us really is!