



26<sup>th</sup> April Easter 3 Emmaus  
2020 Facebook live

### Welcome and Introduction

Good morning and a warm welcome to the vicarage garden and to this service on the third Sunday of Easter.

The gospel today tells the wonderful story of how, after his death, the risen Jesus joined two of his disciples on the road to a village called Emmaus. They did not recognise him at first but when they asked him to stay he explained the Scriptures to them, and revealed himself in the breaking of bread.

Jesus will stay with us when we invite him, makes himself known and that is something can be an encouragement. So we come with those things that cause us regret, and hurt, seeking His healing word...his encouragement to change direction.

### Confession

Lord Jesus, you are our companion on the journey of faith.

Lord have mercy

Lord Jesus, you speak to us when the scriptures are read.

Christ have mercy

Lord Jesus, you nourish us with the bread of the Eucharist.

Lord have mercy

## Absolution

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

In a moment of silence let us bring to God our hopes and concerns for today and the days ahead...

## Collect

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord:  
give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

## Gospel

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
*He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
Glory to you, O Lord. (24:13-35)

On that same day, two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' Jesus asked them, 'What things?'

They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see Jesus.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

*Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

In the name....

Members of Junior Church were given some coloured letters that had been cut up into different shapes. The young people couldn't recognize the letters and worked to assemble them like a jigsaw until they were all put together. And like the disciples on the road to Emmaus they recognised the name Jesus.



In the gospel reading the two disciples walking to Emmaus found it hard to recognise Jesus as he came and walked beside them. The story is one of the great stories of the Bible, with sorrow, suspense, puzzlement, unexpected actions, recognition and finally joy and hope.

The two were leaving Jerusalem because they believed that their world had just fallen apart. Jesus had been executed and the dreams that the disciples had imagined of a new future for their nation had been shattered. The disciples were grieving, gloomy, demoralised. They were talking together of the death of Jesus, and were aware of some rumours –of women who had visited the tomb and found it empty. Angels had told the women that Jesus was alive, but the disciples were slow to understand.

We may find that the gentle manner and kindly question of a stranger can help us to open up when we have been feeling gloomy and depressed about a difficult situation. In their gloom and sadness, Jesus came as a stranger and walked

with the disciples. We don't expect to find God in our pain. We expect to find him in the good times and in joy. Yet in our pain and suffering, in the difficult times, he comes along side.. His presence gives meaning. And our attitude to the suffering can be changed.

But how did the disciples recognise Jesus?

Jesus listened sensitively and patiently to the story they had to tell and then he explained how the scriptures pointed to himself. He explained how the Messiah they were expecting would have to suffer for the people.

Jesus' death was not the end of their dream for the future, but the way that the dream was to become a reality.

The disciples recognised Jesus because when they looked back on the meeting they found that their hearts were warmed. We may find that this is true in life. We may well not know at the time what is happening or what it means. Just as now, during lock-down, we live day to day, just coping with the new situation, the challenges and emotions that are thrown up.

Then it's afterwards, perhaps long afterwards, that our eyes are opened and we begin to understand the experience. We understand - when looking back at the situation. We may have found the kindly word of a stranger to be the answer to a pray, to have brought us closer to God. We may find that we are grateful for the difficult and challenging situations of life as they help us to make sense of suffering, and to grow.

How did the disciples recognise Jesus? They recognised him when the scriptures were explained and they also recognised him in the breaking of the bread. Some have suggested that they recognised Jesus' hands from when he fed the 5000. Luke tells us that Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to his disciples. It points forward to what happens at every Eucharist. At the moment many Christians are fasting

from the Eucharist as we cannot gather together as one body at this time. There is the option of spiritual communion and there will be a time when we do gather, when we will break the one bread again, when we will recognise him in word, sacrament and in each other.

When we do so, we, like the disciples can meet Jesus.

Today we give thanks that God does come along side us on our journey through life. That he will gently question us. That he will speak to us.

We pray that our hearts may burn within us at the sound of his word, and that our eyes may be opened to recognise him in the breaking of the bread.

And we give thanks that as followers of Jesus he gives our lives meaning and direction. We can move from despair to hope. Amen

Intercessions:

Prayer by Sam Wells from 'Prayers during the pandemic'

We pray for the church, for Donald and John our bishops. May the church proclaim your presence, and may we know that you travel with us on the road we go. Teach us to abide in you, that we may know you abide in us. We give thanks and pray for those who walk alongside the downcast, the grieving and those troubled in heart. Help us to reveal your love and presence.

We give thanks that you come to us. You do not force yourself but come into our lives when invited. Help us to be aware of your presence in our homes. Help us to be aware of you as our hearts burn within us. Help us to see you in those we meet. We pray for the lonely, for all who feel rejected, those on the margins of society. Lord in your mercy....

We pray for the elderly, for those who are in Care Homes,  
and all who are coming to the end of their earthly journey.

We pray that you will protect us in our journey, until we  
share with the saints in your kingdom.

Our father.....

Concluding prayer and Blessing:

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in  
the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we  
may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and  
reigns, now and forever. Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ  
has given us the victory, give you joy and peace in your  
faith; and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ, Alleluia, alleluia!

*Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!*

Evensong 5.30

Eucharist 11 am Tuesday Zoom

Prayer Group 7 pm Thursday

Coffee morning 11 am Saturday

Sunday 10.30 and 5.30