

## **ALL AGE 26.04.20    Easter 3, Year A**

Welcome, notices, birthdays

*On screen before the service:*

*Luke 24.13-35*

*Two disciples walk back from Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus. They are in despair about the death of Jesus. Jesus appears and walks beside them, but they do not recognise him. He teaches them from the Scriptures and they see who he is when he breaks bread with them.*

### **Hymn: All I once held dear**

All I once held dear, built my life upon  
All this world reveres, and wars to own  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss  
Spent and worthless now, compared to this

*Chorus:*

*Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you,  
There is no greater thing  
You're my all, you're my best  
You're my joy, my righteousness  
And I love you, Lord*

Now my heart's desire is to know you more  
To be found in you and known as yours  
To possess by faith what I could not earn  
All-surpassing gift of righteousness

*Chorus*

Oh, to know the power of your risen life  
And to know You in Your sufferings  
To become like you in your death, my Lord  
So with you to live and never die

*Chorus*

### **A Gathering Prayer**

Jesus of Nazareth,  
we all have our own stories to tell,  
we've all made different journeys,  
but we all come to hear your story  
and to understand how our stories and journeys fit with yours.  
Walk and talk with us, Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

## **A prayer of confession**

Risen Lord, we are sorry  
that we fail to recognise you in our midst,  
that we are too preoccupied with ourselves.

We are sorry  
that we let you down,  
that we feast and don't invite others to share with us.

We are sorry  
that we welcome friends but not always the stranger,  
or anyone who makes us feel uncomfortable.

**Forgive us, Lord.  
Help us to be generous people,  
and help our hearts always to be places of welcome. Amen.**

## **The Absolution**

Almighty God have mercy on you,  
forgive you your sins  
and bring you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

## **Reading:                    Luke 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.

**Address :**

### **Hymn      Brother, sister, let me serve you**

Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
fellow travellers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ light for you  
in the night time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

## **Intercessions**

God of invitation,  
we thank you for your presence in our lives.  
We pray that you would give us open hearts,  
and help us to include people rather than exclude them.

Generous God  
**Change our lives with your love**

We pray for those who have been rejected or made unwelcome,  
those who struggle to fit in,  
those who do not know what it is to be loved.  
Show them your love, dear Lord,  
and help us to be carriers of your compassion.

Generous God  
**Change our lives with your love**

We thank you for those who have been our welcomers,  
those who make such a difference in ways seen or unseen,  
those ready to give, to share,  
who stretch out their arms to those in need.  
Bless and strengthen them;  
and help us to show our gratitude and support.

Generous God  
**Change our lives with your love**

We pray for those in power and authority,  
that they would see what needs doing  
to help the poorest and most vulnerable – and act on it,  
that the world may become a kinder and fairer place.

Generous God  
**Change our lives with your love**

We pray that as you walk beside us,  
we would draw strength from you,  
and grow in knowledge of you,  
that our hearts too might burn within us.

Generous God  
**Change our lives with your love**

We pray all these things in the powerful name of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

Merciful Father,  
**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer (sung)

**Our Father who art in heaven HBTN  
Thy kingdom come thy will be done HBTN  
On earth as it is in heaven HBTN  
Give us this day our daily bread HBTN  
Forgive us all our trespasses HBTN  
As we forgive those who trespass against us HBTN  
And lead us not into temptation HBTN  
But deliver us from all that is evil HBTN  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory HBTN  
For ever and for ever and ever HBTN**

**Blessing:**

God of glory, be with us.  
Remind us of the profound reality  
of a life infused with your love.  
Let us be witnesses to you,  
sharing the good news  
and celebrating the enduring hope we have.  
In Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

and may the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
be amongst you and remain with you, now and forever. **Amen.**

**The Peace**

The Peace of the Lord be always with you  
*All*            **and also with you**

**Hymn: Sing of the Lord's goodness**

Sing of the Lord's goodness Father of all wisdom,  
come to him and bless his name.  
Mercy he has shown us, his love is forever,  
faithful to the end of days.

**Refrain:**

*Come, then, all you nations,  
sing of your Lord's goodness,  
melodies of praise and thanks to God.  
Ring out the Lord's glory,  
praise him with your music,  
worship him and bless his name.*

**Verse 2**

Power he has wielded, honour is his garment  
risen from the snares of death.  
His word he has spoken, one bread he has broken,  
new life he now gives to all.

**Refrain****Verse 3**

Courage in our darkness, comfort in our sorrow,  
Spirit of our God most high;  
solace for the weary, pardon for the sinner,  
splendour of the living God.

**Refrain****Verse 4**

Praise him with your singing, praise him with the trumpet  
praise God with the lute and harp;  
praise him with the cymbals, praise him with your dancing,  
praise God till the end of days.

**Refrain**