**Sunday 26th April 2020** WORSHIP AT HOME: **Easter 3**

Welcome to our act of Worship for Easter 3, The Road to Emmaus **Luke 24.13-35**

Call to worship

‘As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.” John 15v9

Prayer of Approach *based on the Gospel reading*

We need your presence on the long road, Lord.  
The road between fear and hope,  
the road between the place where all is lost  
and the place of resurrection.  
Like the disciples walking the road to Emmaus,  
we are in need of your company!  
*“Jesus, stand among us, in thy risen power,  
let this time of worship, be a hallowed hour.”* **Amen**

HYMN: To the name of our Salvation...

HP80, MP-, RS 291, STF-

(Some of the hymn books widely used in the Wiltshire United Area)

Prayer of Praise

God, we give you praise that you meet us  
where we are.  
**We worship and adore you.**  
We give you praise that you walk the road with us,

**We worship and adore you.**

We give you praise that you treat us  
as an equal even when we fail to recognise you.  
**We worship and adore you.**  
We give you praise that you, always care for us.  
**We worship and adore you.**  
We give you praise that your love is without limit nor end.  
**We worship and adore you.**

In the name of Christ who journeys with us **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Sometimes, like those on the road,  
we do not recognise you.  
**Forgive us, Lord.**

At other times we only realise later on  
that we were in your presence.  
**Forgive us, Lord.**

For the times we never noticed you at all,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For the opportunities that we might have missed:  
to speak a word of healing or encouragement  
to someone in need,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For the times we have just wanted to go our own way,  
even when we know it’s not your way,  
**forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

HYMN Jesu, thou joy of loving hearts

HP258, MP- , RS389 , STF-

**GOSPEL Luke 24v13-35 The Road to Emmaus Disciples** with special focus on verse 15-17

15While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to Christ our Lord. Alleluia!**

REFLECTION

*“Real heroes don’t fly, they walk”.* One of countless tributes to the efforts of Captain Tom Moore who has become a natural treasure. As of Thursday April 23rd he has raised in excess of £28 million for the NHS.

*“Real heroes don’t fly, they walk.”* That’s the road to the Emmaus when the risen, victorious Christ comes not in splendour and glory but as a fellow traveller who akin to the Good Samaritan binds up the wounds of the hurt and grieving followers.

I’m reminded of the Footprints illustration, which is printed after today’s Gospel*: The Lord whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you, never, ever, during your trials and testings. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."*

Perhaps we put limits on where we expect to find Jesus. Perhaps we get too wrapped up in our hopes and disappointments, our expectations and our grief. Let’s be honest the horrors of today’s world can overwhelm our sense of hope, just as the events in Jerusalem did for Cleopas and the other traveller.

We don’t expect the stranger we pass on the street to be the presence of Jesus for us. We don’t anticipate that a chance encounter might open up our understanding of scripture, of God’s saving activity in the world.

The Emmaus reading illustrates that we find Jesus when we least expect to discover him. For me it is all about God’s love, a love that meets us where we really are, not where we’d like to be, or think we are, but in the bluntness and brutality of reality.

Even when we least expect to find Jesus, he still in love finds us. Maybe this passage will enable us to wonder both at the amazing love of God and how we might encounter our risen Lord on our journey through each day. Amen.

Prayer of Response

Risen Christ, friend, companion, healer:  
as I walk the road in front of me  
be by my side and never leave. **Amen**.

HYMN The love of God comes close (Iona)

HP -, MP940, RS107, STF654

Little people may prefer: One more step

HP 746, STF 476

Our Prayers

Holy God we praise and adore you for your faithful love to us and give you thanks for your presence in our lives. We pray that we may show and share your love with all.  
Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

We pray for all those who feel lonely or vulnerable unloved or unloveable. Help us to be carriers of your compassion.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

We pray for all suffering, whether in body, mind or spirit and we pray for those who journey with them, especially members of the medical services. Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*  
  
We pray for those in power and authority,  
that amidst the current pandemic they will remember the plight of the most vulnerable,  
that the world may become a kinder and fairer place.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*  
  
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.

In the name of the Risen Christ we pray. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

HYMN I know that my redeemer lives...

HP196, MP278, RS278, STF303

Blessing

May the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, rest upon you. May he give light to guide you, courage to support you, and love to unite you now and for evermore. Amen.

[A personal reflection, can be said either by either one or two voices](javascript:void(0))

**A**  I didn't know you were there …  
     in the smell and dirt of the homeless woman,  
     but that's where I found you.

**B**  I didn't expect to see you in the classroom,  
     in the headache and discipline of learning,  
     but that's where I found you.

**A**   I didn't expect to see you on the soup run,  
     handing hot sustenance to cold people,  
     but that's where I found you.

**B**  I didn't expect to see you in the hospital,  
     with Covid-19 patients, but that's where I found you.

**A**   I didn't expect to see you on the shop floor,  
     laughing with friends, working, sweating,  
     but that's where I found you.

**B**   I didn't know you were there …  
     listening, caring, loving.  
     Challenging, testing, loving.

**A**  I didn't know you were there,  
     but I found you in the bread,  
     I found you in the wine.  
     And now, I look to recognise you everywhere.

Rev David Coppard Superintendent @ Wiltshire United Area

Bank Chaplain @ Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton

*This is service is offered to any and all, with love and prayers.*

**Luke 24.13-35**

**The Walk to Emmaus**

13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’ They stood still, looking sad. 18Then 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?’ 19He 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, 20and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 21But 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. 22Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 23and 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. 24Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.’ 25Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! 26Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’ 27Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 29But 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. 30When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. 32They 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?’ 33That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. 34They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ 35Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**Footprints**

One night I had a dream…

I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord, and across the sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; One belonged to me, and the other to the Lord. When the last scene of my life flashed before us, I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that many times along the path of my life, There was only one set of footprints.

I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest  
and saddest times in my life  
This really bothered me, and I questioned the Lord about it.  
“Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you,  
You would walk with me all the way;  
But I have noticed that during the  
most troublesome times in my life,  
There is only one set of footprints.  
I don’t understand why in times when I  
needed you the most, you should leave me.

The Lord replied, “My precious, precious  
child. I love you, and I would never,  
never leave you during your times of  
trial and suffering.  
When you saw only one set of footprints,  
It was then that I carried you.

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HYMNS and WORSHIP SONGS

1 To the name of our salvation  
laud and honour let us pay,  
which for many a generation  
hid in God's foreknowledge lay,  
but with holy exultation  
we may sing aloud to-day.

2 Jesus is the name we treasure,  
name beyond what words can tell;  
name of gladness, name of pleasure,  
ear and heart delighting well;  
name of sweetness passing measure,  
saving us from sin and hell.

3 'Tis the name that whoso preacheth  
speaks like music to the ear;  
who in prayer this name beseecheth  
sweetest comfort findeth near;  
who its perfect wisdom reacheth  
heavenly joy possesseth here.

4 Jesus is the name exalted  
over every other name;  
in this name, whene'er assaulted,  
we can put our foes to shame:  
strength to them who else had halted,  
eyes to blind, and feet to lame.

5 Therefore we in love adoring  
this most blessed name revere,  
holy Jesu, thee imploring  
so to write it in us here,  
that hereafter heavenward soaring  
we may sing with angels there.

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1 Jesu thou, joy of loving hearts,  
thou fount of life, thou light of all,  
from the best bliss that earth imparts  
we turn unfilled to thee again.

2 Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;  
Thou savest all those who on thee call.  
To them that seek you, you are good;  
to them that find thee, all in all.

3 We taste thee, O living Bread,  
and long to feast upon thee still;  
we drink of thee, the fountain head,  
And thirst our souls on thee to fill.

4 Our restless spirits yearn for thee  
where’er our changeful lot is cast;  
glad when thy gracious smile we see,  
blest when our faith can hold thee fast.

5 O Jesu, ever with us stay;  
make all our moments calm and bright!  
Chase the dark night of sin away;  
shed o’er the world your holy light!

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The love of God comes close  
Where stands an open door  
To let the stranger in,  
To mingle rich and poor:  
The love of God is here to stay  
Embracing those who walk his way.

The peace of God comes close  
To those caught in the storm,  
Forgoing lives of ease  
To ease the lives forlorn:  
The peace of God is here to stay  
Embracing those who walk his way.

The joy of God comes close  
Where faith encounters fears,  
Where heights and depths of life  
Are found through smiles and tears:  
The joy of God is here to stay  
Embracing those who walk his way.

The grace of God comes close  
To those whose grace is spent,  
When hearts are tired or sore  
And hope is bruised or bent:  
The grace of God is here to stay  
Embracing those who walk his way.

The Son of God comes close  
Where people praise his name,  
Where bread and wine are blest  
And shared, as when he came:  
The Son of God is here to stay  
Embracing those who walk his way.

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One more step along the world I go,  
One more step along the world I go;  
From the old things to the new,  
Keep me travelling along with you:  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
Keep me travelling along with you.  
  
Round the corners of the world I turn,  
More and more about the world I learn;  
All the new things that I see  
You'll be looking at along with me.

And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
Keep me travelling along with you.  
  
As I travel through the bad and good,  
Keep me travelling the way I should.  
Where I see no way to go,  
You'll be telling me the way, I know.  
  
Give me courage when the world is rough,  
Keep me loving though the world is tough;  
Leap and sing in all I do,  
Keep me travelling along with you:  
  
You are older than the world can be,  
You are younger than the life in me;  
Ever old and ever new,  
Keep me travelling along with you:  
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I know that my Redeemer lives;  
What joy the blest assurance gives!  
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my everlasting Head.

He lives to bless me with His love,  
He lives to plead for me above,  
He lives my hungry soul to feed,  
He lives to help in time of need.

He lives and grants me daily breath;  
He lives and I shall conquer death;  
He lives my mansion to prepare;  
He lives to bring me safely there.

He lives, all glory to His name!  
He lives, my Jesus, still the same.  
What joy the blest assurance gives,  
“I know that my Redeemer lives!”