

# Sunday 19th April – Morning Worship for Easter 3

Led by Rick Nelms

<https://zoom.us/j/82311473640>

LORDSBRIDGE TEAM  
OF CHURCHES



## Opening Words

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

cf 1 Timothy 1.2

## Gathering Prayer

Almighty God,  
your Son has opened for us  
a new and living way into your presence.  
Give us new hearts and constant wills  
to worship you in spirit and in truth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

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

- 1 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.
  
- 2 We are pilgrims on a journey,  
and companions on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.
  
- 3 I will hold the Christlight for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

4 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.

5 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.

6 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.

Richard Gillard (born 1953)

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## Saying Sorry

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God.  
Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil  
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

cf Romans 6.10

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the living bread.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love and power  
forgive us and free us from our sins,

heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,  
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Readings by Ann Griffiths

### **Acts 2:14, 36-41**

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

<sup>36</sup> Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?'

<sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' <sup>40</sup> And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' <sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

For the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Luke 24:13-35**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> 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?'

<sup>19</sup> He 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, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> 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 him.’ <sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’ <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. <sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> 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?’ <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Reflection by Rev Claire Robertson**

I have to confess that I am a fan of Jane Austen and anything Austen related. So I have recently been enjoying the TV adaptation of Janice

Hadlow's novel "The Other Bennet Sister". This is a sequel to Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, with Mary, the overlooked "plain" middle sister, now taking centre stage. Hadlow has kept true to the Austen tradition, where small and seemingly insignificant events take on greater meaning because of changes of heart in the characters. In the novel, a trip to the Lakes with her uncle and aunt leads to a flourishing of relationship with two friends. Through small daily interactions, Mary ceases to be overlooked by those around her and finds the confidence to be true to herself, knowing that she is loved for who she is.

St Luke's gospel is a favourite with many people because, like Jane Austen and Janice Hadlow, he draws characters so sympathetically and he always makes room for the marginalised. Without Luke's gospel we would not have the story of The Good Samaritan or The Road to Emmaus. As St Luke relates the story of that first Easter Day, we find that the two disciples on the road invite a stranger they have met on the road to join them in what would have been an everyday event – the breaking of bread in a home. However, because of their change of heart during the walk this event has great significance for them. They realise that Jesus, their Saviour is alive and with them.

Of the two disciples who meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus we know the name of one, Cleopas, but not the other. The second disciple tends to get overlooked but some bible scholars such as N.T Wright think that Cleopas' companion is his wife. We know that Mary the wife of Clopas (different spelling) was at the crucifixion.

It would have been unusual to leave the Holy City so soon after the Passover but if the companion of Cleopas is his wife, Mary, she would have been keen to get away after the horror she has witnessed. Instead of a place of celebration Jerusalem has now become for her and her husband a place of mourning. They could not travel on the Sabbath but take the first opportunity they can to leave on the Sunday. We are told they are discussing together on their journey what has been happening when Jesus joins them. At this point they don't recognise Jesus and he does not tell them who he is.

Instead he asks them what they have been discussing.

As humans, we express how we are feeling mostly through our body language and we are told by St Luke that when Jesus asked his two disciples this question they stopped walking, stood still and looked sad. We can imagine that their faces looked downcast but also their posture showed that they were weighed down with grief.

Jesus' death had made such an impact on them that they found it hard to believe that everyone didn't know about it. Jesus of course is only asking the question to open the conversation. However, for many people in Jerusalem another crucifixion would have been part of life at that time. Crucifixion was commonplace in the Roman Empire until the Emperor Constantine outlawed it in the fourth century.

Jesus' question stops them in their tracks but also gives them permission to share with him their story as they continue the journey. It all tumbles out: their hopes about Jesus, their anger at the leaders who condemned him and their disappointment that things had not turned out as they hoped. Cleopas tags on the end, as an afterthought, that some women had seen angels at the empty tomb who said Jesus was alive.

Jesus, at this point, exclaims about their lack of wisdom and trust. He then has a long conversation with them, explaining the scriptures to them and the prophecies about himself. He explains that he needed to suffer death on the cross for mankind's sins, so that we could receive forgiveness and eternal life.

Jesus needs Cleopas and his companion back in Jerusalem that evening but is content to journey with them, even though they are heading in the wrong direction. He knows that when they finally recognise him, at their evening meal, they will turn around and race back in the right direction, to join the disciples who are still in Jerusalem.

Jesus doesn't abandon us either when we are heading in the wrong direction. He accompanies us and reveals himself when we are ready to recognise him.

The first reading today from the Acts of the Apostles, the sequel to Luke's gospel, takes place at the Feast of Pentecost, fifty days after that first Easter. Peter invites his listeners to repent. This means literally to change direction, like those disciples who travelled to Emmaus, and to recognise Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

So today, Lord we thank you that you are always with us even when we don't recognise you. Please help us to be more aware of your presence, to listen when you send messengers to us and to be ready to turn around when you show us that we are heading in the wrong direction. May we too through the power of your Holy Spirit be messengers of your glorious resurrection through what we do and what we say, Amen.

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession prepared by Dona McCullagh

### **We pray for the Church**

Risen Lord, you made yourself known to your disciples in the breaking of bread, and opened the Scriptures to their hearts. We pray for your Church throughout the world: that it may proclaim with boldness the good news of your resurrection, as Peter did on the day of Pentecost. Taking up the invitation of our diocesan prayer calendar, we pray especially today for the Deanery of Shingay in South Cambridgeshire, and for those that support the office of our Archdeacons. And from the Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer, we stand today in prayer alongside the Church of the Province of Myanmar.

Strengthen all who minister in your name, and renew your people with the fire of your Spirit, that we may serve one another in love.

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

### **We pray for the World**

God of all nations, we pray for peace in places of conflict, for justice where there is oppression, and for wisdom among leaders. Where hearts are fearful or divided, draw near and walk alongside, as you did on the road to Emmaus, bringing hope and understanding.

As vivid memories fade of the images of this planet viewed from outer space, and the words of the astronauts lose their immediacy, urging us to see ourselves as one community gifted life in an extraordinary world, not a map of divided lines, we pray that those images and words may have lasting impact on this and future generations, and draw us nearer to you, our creator and through your all-encompassing love, to each other. Guide all our nations into the ways of reconciliation and truth.

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

### **We pray for the Community**

Loving God, we give thanks for our local communities. Help us to recognise you in one another, and to serve each other with humility and compassion, as we are called in fellowship and love. Bless our homes, our schools, our workplaces and our neighbourhoods. We

pray especially that you would bless initiatives within our Lordsbridge Team - Oasis Teas, St Mary's Music Cafe, Comberton Men's Shed. May we be a light to those around us, sharing kindness and hospitality with all.

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

### **We pray for those who are suffering**

Merciful Lord, we bring before you all who are in need: those who are sick in body or mind, those who are anxious, lonely, or burdened by grief. Walk with them in their pain, and reveal your presence in their lives. As you opened the eyes of your disciples, open our eyes to the needs of others, that we may bring comfort and care.

We take a moment to bring to God the names of those we know personally who are suffering at this time.

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

### **We pray for those who have died and those who mourn**

God of life, we remember before you those who have died, and those who grieve their loss. Surround them with your love and peace. As the risen Christ brings new life, give us hope in the promise of resurrection, and comfort all who mourn with the assurance of your eternal presence.

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

### **We pray for ourselves**

Gracious God, as we gather in worship, kindle within us a deeper faith and a greater love. Open our hearts to recognise you in Scripture, in sacrament, and in one another. Send us out in the power of your Spirit, to live out the good news of Christ in our daily lives.

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## 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 forever. **Amen**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:  
**Our Father in heaven,**  
**hallowed be your name,**  
**your kingdom come,**  
**your will be done,**  
**on earth as in heaven.**  
**Give us today our daily bread.**  
**Forgive us our sins**  
**as we forgive those who sin against us.**  
**Lead us not into temptation**  
**but deliver us from evil.**  
**For the kingdom, the power,**  
**and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## Hymn - Light of the minds that know him

I Light of the minds that know him,  
may Christ be light to mine!  
My sun in risen splendour,  
my light of truth divine;  
my guide in doubt and darkness,  
my true and living way,  
my clear light ever shining,  
my dawn of heaven's day.

- 2 Life of the souls that love him,  
may Christ be ours indeed!  
The living bread from heaven  
on whom our spirits feed;  
who died for love of sinners  
to bear our guilty load,  
and make of life's brief journey  
a new Emmaus road.
- 3 Strength of the wills that serve him,  
may Christ be strength to me,  
who stilled the storm and tempest,  
who calmed the tossing sea;  
his Spirit's power to move me,  
his will to master mine,  
his cross to carry daily  
and conquer in his sign.
- 4 May it be ours to know him  
that we may truly love,  
and loving, fully serve him  
as serve the saints above;  
till in that home of glory  
with fadeless splendour bright,  
we serve in perfect freedom  
our strength, our life, our light.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926 - 2024) from a prayer of Saint Augustine

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## Notices

### Blessing

Eternal God,  
our beginning and our end,  
accompany us in this day's journey.  
Dawn on our darkness,

open our eyes to praise you for your creation  
and to see the work you set before us today.  
Take us and use us to bring to others  
the new life you give in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
And the blessing of God almighty  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always.  
**Amen.**

He is not here. He is risen.  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.  
**In the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.**