



Sunday Service

Sunday 26th April 2020 – The Third Sunday of Easter

Opening Prayer

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us also to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Bible reading

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognising him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognised by them when he broke the bread. Luke 24 : 13 - 35

Reflection : The Journey

- Who we travel with, and our destination, has a major impact on any journey that we take.
- Cleopas and his companion were expecting a depressing journey home.
- Jesus transforms their journey and their destination, and gives them a purpose for the rest of their lives.
- Jesus offers the same to us, especially when our journey in life is tough.
- Jesus transforms our mood into one of joy, no matter what is happening in the world.
- Jesus transforms our final destination from the grave to Eternal life.
- And Jesus transforms the purpose of our life - from existence to becoming witnesses who declare that Jesus is risen and is the Saviour of the world.

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious, be with all those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort knowing nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Final prayer

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples as their risen Lord:
open our eyes that we may see Jesus as our Risen Lord,
and help us to walk each step of every day of our lives empowered by the Holy Spirit for your glory.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

Blessing

And now, may God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory,
give us joy and peace this Easter time.
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us now and evermore. Amen.