



Church at Home for Abridge

26th April 2020

On the Road to Emmaus

Further resources for worship and reflection

Talking to Jesus.

When I first looked at all the readings, I wondered what on earth might connect them.

Then having summarised them all I suddenly realised that there is a common thread running through all of the passages. That thread lies around the reality of God's ways not always being in line with our ways. Let me see if I can explain!

In Acts there is the full-frontal reality that in fact we can get in the way of God's plans or simply not see them or recognise them as God's. Behind the personal thanksgiving in the psalm for God coming to the writer's rescue, there are all the other requests people have uttered that God has not answered.

In 1 Peter there is the reminder of the new things that God is doing and of our need for re-birth into a new family, while in the Gospel we have two disciples whose hopes have been shattered and who can't see through the fog of disappointment and despair to see that God is still there and is walking with them. The faith journey can be a very rocky road where we can't always be sure of where we're going or even see the way ahead – or understand why things are the way they are.

How's a person meant to cope?

Acts says be open, constantly open, to being turned around. The Psalmist says pray anyway. Peter says, know you don't journey alone: that you have family travelling with you.

And Luke says: even in the darkest times, God is. (The Faith Nurture Forum of Scotland)

On the Road to Emmaus, the resurrected Christ walks with two men on the road. He blesses and breaks bread with the and then vanishes from sight. Their hearts burned within them.

The narrative of the reading follows -- [The Road to Emmaus](#)

There can be little doubt that this experience of grief is one that we share with Cleopas and his companion on the road home to Emmaus as they mourn the loss of the one in whom they saw so much potential. All the doors appeared to be opening for something new, something extraordinary, and with a violent slam the doors had been thrown shut again on their hopes.

This is part of the enlivening glory of the resurrection story. It is not a story from then, it is a story for now and for everyone who is burdened and heavy laden. Even from our ordinariness, the same ordinariness to which Cleopas and his companion were returning after the excitement and horror of Jerusalem, can come something life-changing, invigorating and extraordinary.

The closed doors within the hearts of Cleopas and his friend are torn open as they finally get it, as they understand that Jesus is still with them, in their learning, in their sharing, in their speaking and in their actions.

This good news is one that they have to share, so the return journey to Jerusalem is an important closing to this story. Jesus' followers had been experiencing him, the risen Lord, in different ways, but they all come together to tell each other of their experiences. Jerusalem is the scene of doors closing, or so it seemed, but it is also the place from which new hope will burst forth across the world as the good news spreads.

Sending

Today we have walked and talked along the Emmaus road. We walk and talk each week with Christ by our side.

Let Him walk with you this week, let Him speak to you and allow him to open the door of your heart, so that you too meet the extraordinary in the ordinary.

May you know God's hope, Christ's love and the Holy Spirit's energy this week and always.

Amen.

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