



Church at Home 7 For Abridge On the road to Emmaus



Sunday 26th April 2020

We continue the resurrection journey, which turns out to be a journey open to everyone to start out on.

It is, however, a journey that is not always easy. There will be blind bends and turns and steep hills to negotiate alongside the odd pothole or two on the road – but there will also be wind-in-your-hair moments of joyous freewheeling and breath-taking glimpses of what is to come. Whatever the journey holds, we discover that we don't make it alone.

Dear Friends,

I wonder if you have already forgotten Easter. The pain that Jesus went through for us. As we walk in isolation along our uncrowded streets and roads; I wonder if we would realise, if we encountered Jesus? If we heard a small still voice talking to us; would we interpret it as Jesus or God talking to us? I have a few pictures of the Holy Land. I would like you to take a few moments and imagine you were there over 2000 years ago. What would have been your views and feelings?

Just remember and say three times:

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Halleluiah!



If you know of someone in the church family who is alone for this act of worship, you might like to give them a call and arrange to share this time with them.

1. Thank you for continuing to share your Church at Home. Please find Derek and Freda's worship corner; plus, Keith and Ruth's Church at Home attached at the end of this service sheet.

2. Today's Bible readings are: **Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35**

3. A Prayer:

As I enter prayer now. I pause to be still; to breath slowly; re-centre my scattered senses upon God's Presence.

Jesus, open my eyes to see that You are alive, present and powerful today. Holy Spirit infuse in all I say and do with the hope of resurrection life.

Approach and confession:

Bless Your name, Lord Jesus. With open hearts, minds and spirits, we gather to praise You, grateful that Your arms are thrown so wide in welcome. It is in the security of that embrace that we confess we do not deserve such warmth or acceptance. We have let You down in so many ways. we have failed to reflect Your goodness in the words we have spoken. In the way we have treated others and in the selfish things we have done.

Church Leaders Contact details: - **Nick** - 01992 814 426. **Roger** - 01992 815 838. **Keith** - 020 8504 9168

We ask for Your forgiveness –but more than that. We ask for the courage to choose to do better. Help us to remember every minute of every day, that we are Yours, loved by You, called by You. Let that love and that calling make us generous towards others and more loving towards You. Be Lord of our lives, this day and forever.

Amen

4. Read the Bible passage from Acts 2:14a, 36-41; pause for “prayer of understanding” and read again slowly.

Peter says it like it is...His sermon does not pull its punches – but we have to be careful about how we hear it.

Peter’s audience heard what he was saying and interrupted him in full flow to ask what they might do to put things right. Peter gives them two instructions: - to repent... and then to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. That is, Peter called people to turn their thinking around to recognise and see God in Christ and then he wanted them to share in Jesus’ life and death and resurrection by being baptised in His name.

5. Read the Bible passage from Luke 24:13-35; pause for “prayer of understanding” and read again slowly.

This wasn’t a casual conversation on the road. This was intense, forensic, passionate discussion. And Jesus interrupted it.

It’s tempting to want to rush to the end of the encounter when, sat at the table, the two walkers suddenly realise who it is who had joined them and explained everything so fully to them, but it may be worth staying with the words ‘we had hoped...’ for a little while.

6. To help you explore the story further, there is a reflection sheet and also some all-age activities, that you might like to use, if you have access to the Internet. You can find these resources on the websites of the two churches and here are the links:

www.lambournechurch.com

www.abridgeevangelicalchurch.org

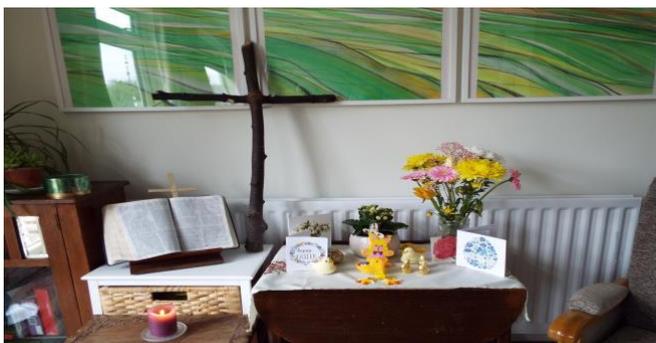
7. For our prayers, and in the light of the resurrection of Christ, let us remember:

- Families in lock-down who are finding it increasingly difficult, especially if they haven’t garden space or countryside nearby.
- Our NHS health professionals and other key workers who are putting themselves at risk to save lives. You may know of some by name for whom you can pray.
- Those who are being treated in hospital this very day.

Add any particular people and situations that The Lord has brought to your mind as you have been praying. End with our family prayer, The Lord’s Prayer. Or listen [The Lord’s Prayer - Sung](#)

7. You might like to listen to this hymn as you pray: - [You Raise me up.](#) or [Lord I need you](#)

End your time of church-at-home by saying out loud the words of **The Grace**, reaching out your hands to include in your imagination all those you know and love, who live here in the village.



Keith and Ruth’s Easter Church at Home.



Derek and Freda’s Worship Corner.

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