EMMANUEL CHURCH – EASTER 2 WORSHIP – 11TH APRIL 2021

Make some space at home to read and pray through the following, if possible, on the morning of Sunday 4th April 2021.
If you are able, join in this service on Zoom – contact Rev. Paul for details of the service, login and password.

Gathering Prayer: In the mysteries of life, **God meets us.**
In the trying to make sense of what we don't understand, **God meets us.**
In the sadness of our grief, **God meets us.** In the listening to his words, **God meets us.**
In the sharing of bread and wine, **God meets us.** In the joy and the laughter, **God meets us.**
Come, let us worship God, who meets us where we are.
Come, let us worship Jesus, who knows and understands us.
Come, let us worship the Spirit, who helps us in our need. Amen.

Reading: 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, 14 and talking with each
other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were
talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16 but their eyes were kept
from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while
you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. 18 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?' 19 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, 20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death
and crucified him. 21 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. 22 Moreover, some women of our
group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 23 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. 24 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.' 25 Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you
are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! 26 Was it not necessary
that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' 27 Then 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. 29 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. 30 When he was at the table with them,
he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and
they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. 32 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?' 33 That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the
eleven and their companions gathered together. 34 They were saying, 'The Lord has risen
indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and
how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Address: 'On the Way Home'

Where we live in the harbour, we often hear bits of conversations as people go past our patio garden: 'can you believe that he said that…'; 'No Harry you cannot do that…'; 'If they do that you can tell where to go...'. Hearing parts of conversation makes us often think: I wonder what was said next, or what happened next?

Sometimes it is very interesting what people are talking about and I want to join in, 'no they are not dogs, they're seals in the harbour' or 'please will you just give them space' but sometimes conversations don't appeal and I dread to think where it will go next!

In our story today as Jesus joined Cleopas and his companion on the road back to Emmaus, their conversation was consumed with events of the past few weeks, they were absorbed in their own world and emotions. Perhaps over the past year or so we have been so involved in the pandemic and it has consumed much of thinking and thought processes, or before that in our careers or families that we barely have time to notice Jesus by our side, so involved in our careers or families or retirement plans that Jesus comes as bit of an afterthought.

Cleopas and friend (why don't we know their name, that's so irritating?!) were on their way home, (why were they going home, to feed the animals; to run the business; to run away?) and Jesus interrupted their conversation, with a simple question 'What are you talking about?' and that made me wonder whether I let Jesus interrupt me? They could have said 'mind your own business!' but fortunately they didn't say that, as they were just about to have the best life application bible study in history! Jesus helped them to see all of the last week's events in the context of history and how all of scripture pointed towards why these events had to happen.

So enthralled were they that when they got to Emmaus and home they wanted to hear more and they sat down with this man that they still hadn't recognised to have a meal, and when he broke bread (said 'Grace') suddenly they recognised him…and he disappeared. You can imagine their faces: "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us!" they said and immediately they forgot it was night and they were tired and returned to the rest of disciples in Jerusalem. We need to spend time with Jesus and his followers so that our hearts burn and that we are compelled to live our lives that burn for him.

An Emmaus Road Prayer:

Lord Jesus I pray that today you word would come alive for me,
so much so that I know I have been in your blessed presence.
Let me live my life that naturally demonstrates that I have walked and talked with you. We ask these things in your wonderful name Jesus. **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession and Lord's Prayer:

Let us pray.
We pray for travellers, for refugees and asylum seekers, for the homeless victims of war and natural disasters. For people in Myanmar, Yemen, Palestine, and all places of conflict.
Draw closer. Be known to them, and to us, as you were in the breaking of bread.

We pray for those involved in the processes of justice. For police officers, lawyers, magistrates and judges. For those imprisoned, confined, those persecuted for their faith.
Draw closer. Be known to them, and to us, as you were in the breaking of bread.

We pray for the bereaved, for those concerned about their own health or that of those near and dear to them. For our families, friends, and all who support us day by day.
Draw closer. Be known to them, and to us, as you were in the breaking of bread. Amen.
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name…

Blessing: May the blessing of God: Father, Son and Spirit be with us today and always. **Amen.**

Address © 2021 Andy Melvin. Opening Prayer and Prayers of Intercession adapted from © 2002-2021, ROOTS for Churches Ltd.
Images freely available online. All material within this order of worship is reproduced by permission under CCL 1226356