

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!**

I do hope that you are all feeling well and managing to not be too depressed – but if you are a bit down, this account from Luke 24 could be just what you need! You may wish to underline the words that are meaningful to you, and base your prayers on that. Let me know your responses.

It was the same day as 3 women found the tomb was empty.

2 followers of Jesus were walking the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They were talking and discussing all the things that had happened that weekend. A third person joined them. It was Jesus, but they were kept from recognising him.



Jesus asked them what they were discussing as they walked. They stood still, their faces downcast, and Cleopas said, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem, who has not heard what has happened in these days?”

Jesus asked, “What things?”

They said, “About Jesus of Nazareth, a prophet, powerful in word and deed, before God and the people.

The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death and crucified. But we had hoped that he was the one who would save all Israel. In addition to this, some women went to the tomb this morning and found that it was empty, and they saw a vision of angels who told them that Jesus was alive. Some of our companions went and found the tomb as the women had said, but they didn’t find Jesus.”

Jesus replied, “How slow you are to believe all the prophets have spoken! Didn’t you realise from the Scriptures that these things had to happen? That the Messiah had to suffer these things and enter his glory?” Then, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained all the Scriptures said about himself.



Approaching Emmaus, Jesus seemed to be going further, but the two men urged him strongly to stay with them, as the hour was late and it was almost evening. So he went in and sat down with them at table. He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and as he was giving it to them, their eyes were opened, and they recognised him; and at that moment he disappeared.

They said to each other, “Weren’t our hearts burning within us as we walked the road and he explained the scriptures to us?”

They got up straight away, and went back to Jerusalem to the disciples, who said, “It is true, he has appeared to Peter!” Then the two told them everything that had happened, and how they recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

Amen

When you are troubled, it helps to go for a walk in the beautiful countryside, where now the air is fresh, there are wild flowers and the birds are singing. A time to think your thoughts and pray for guidance. How wonderful that Jesus is walking there too, delighted to give insight and encouragement, reminding of words from the scriptures. We will never be alone. In the garden too! Our gardens are thriving with so much attention!

We need human company, just like those two disciples. Thank you for all those that are ringing each other, sending emails and cards. Phone calls give a human voice. Some are talking over the garden fence, careful to keep their distance, but giving that opportunity to lonely people, to see a face as well.

And thank you for all those that are working on the front line in whatever capacity; no effort is too small; it all contributes to helping us enjoy our lives, even in lockdown.

Where is God in Coronavirus? Right with us, in the suffering!

For your prayers may I suggest topics like:

Praying that we will still be 'church' even when not in the building.
For the endurance and patience to keep social distancing.
That God will guide politicians in every country, especially the poorest.
That we will all learn how to keep the air clean, and the poor enriched.
That we will not be distressed by those that spread bad news.

And the Lord's Prayer.

Notices: **There another on-line service for you** – out on Sunday 26th; just click on the video on St Mark's Flecknoe website at or after 9am. <https://www.stmarksflecknoe.co.uk/videos>

Please let me know what sort of services you would like online; Morning prayer (Common Worship or BCP); Communion; zooming together in worship; or anything?

or just directions to find services at other churches. (Knowing what you would help you will help me a lot!)
All feedback is always helpful.

May the Lord bless you and keep you, may he make his face to shine upon you and give you his peace.
Amen

With my love, Anne