

ST. JOHN THE DIVINE, RASTRICK WELCOME TO

Morning Praise

Sunday 26th April 2020

*Click on the underlined links to take you to safe content on the internet.
If you are able light a candle as you start the service and if others are in the house
encourage them to reading some of the service with you.*

Introduction

This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We have come together in the name of Christ
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.



Prayer of Penitence

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' So, let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Together we pray:

**Lord God, we have sinned against you.
we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore to us the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn: [My Lord, what love is this?](#)

The Word of God

Reading: [Acts 2:14a, 36-41](#) Read by Holly Mason

Gospel Reading: Luke 24:13-35 [Video Reading](#)

Reflection - prepared by Rev. Stephen Hallam

Picture the scene: -

Cleopas and his companion – perhaps his wife – were on their way to Emmaus a journey of about seven miles. It seems they were walking towards the setting sun at the end of the day.

They were sad. They had just witnessed the death of Jesus so perhaps they had lost hope. Perhaps we could say they were in a “dry bones” situation?

As they were walking and talking to each other Jesus came alongside them and asked them what they were talking about. So, they tell him about the crucifixion and the death of Jesus. They tell him how they were amazed at what the women had said about Jesus being alive. But how could that be?

They tell him about the empty tomb. But being told this wasn't enough. They needed more proof.

We are told Jesus walks with them and talks to them. As they walk, he shares the scriptures with them. He helps them to make sense of what has happened. But Jesus doesn't force himself on them. Then he walks ahead as if he is going on. But they invite him to stay with them for the evening. So, Jesus turns back to them.

There is some interesting symbolism here. Jesus is invited to stay with them, so he turns back to them. There is an invitation and Jesus responds.

That makes me wonder how many times Jesus passes us by but carries on because we don't invite him to stay? God has given us a free will to choose. But I wonder do we always choose to invite Jesus into our world?

Now Jesus is revealed to Cleopas and his companion in the breaking of bread. The two then realise how their hearts “burned” in his presence. If you like, the darkness that was hanging over them was replaced by light.

A huge sadness is replaced with joy. Despair is replaced with hope. They were no longer on the “sunset road” but were now facing the dawn of new life. Their lives had been turned round! It was a new beginning!

The same is on offer for us. That same invitation is for us - each and every day - to leave behind the sunset road and to face the dawn of new light and life. Even in difficult times such as these the son brings us new light and new life. (and no that isn't a spelling mistake!)

Revd. Stephen

Hymn: [Come and see](#)

The Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of intercession – prepared by Glen Tatton [Click Here](#)

A Prayer for Church Growth

God of Mission

**Who along brings growth to your church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning
Wisdom to our actions
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for today

Almighty Father,

who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord:

give us such knowledge of his presence with us,

that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life

and serve you continually in righteousness and truth.

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen

Hymn: [Christ triumphant, ever reigning](#)

Final Prayer - St Benedict

O gracious and holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate upon you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Lord Jesus your light is the only light I need
as I travel through life's mystery.
Your word the only voice I hear,
that still small voice
that leads me to the place where I should be.
Your presence is the only company I need,
as I walk this narrow road.
Your fellowship the warmth I crave
to help me on my way. Amen

Our service ends with the Grace,
**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the Love of God,
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen.**