

## Edzell Church Virtual Service 3/5/20

**Praise:** Love divine, all loves excelling

Love Divine, all loves excelling  
Joy of heaven to earth come down  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling  
All thy faithful mercies crown  
Jesus, thou art all compassion  
Pure unbounded love thou art  
Visit us with thy salvation  
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all thy life receive;  
Suddenly return and never,  
Never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve thee as thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise thee without ceasing,  
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGGcqhKShQ8>

### **Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy will be done in earth,  
As it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
The power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.

**Reading:** Luke 24:13-35

<sup>13</sup> That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. <sup>16</sup> But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> 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 happened. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” <sup>25</sup> And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup> So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, <sup>29</sup> but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” <sup>33</sup> And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered

together, <sup>34</sup> saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**Sermon:** The Road to Emmaus

<https://www.facebook.com/1142790689184754/videos/904669433288878/>

## **Luke 24:13-35 – On the road to Emmaus**

**Intro:** Those that strictly follow a liturgical calendar would have found themselves on the road to Emmaus last Sunday. I tend not to follow a lectionary and hence I shared a few thoughts on Moses in exile last week. However, after observing a picture in stained glass depicting the scene of the two disciples that encountered the Lord Jesus on the road to Emmaus that is found in Leicester Cathedral, I feel prompted to now revisit that story.

I do so because its lessons are particularly appropriate given our present circumstances and predicament. While the majority of people I’ve had contact with over the phone or via social media, and even some face to face, if from a distance, in recent weeks have been, generally speaking, cheerful, determined and optimistic, I have encountered a few dejected and despairing folk.

As I quoted in the recent newsletter, my prayer for such of you who feel that way is that *the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope* (Rom.15:13).

Today, our text is Luke 24:13-35 and there we encounter two disciples who had similarly experienced defeat, distress and despair. However, they were unknowingly on the road to victory and jubilation. Emmaus, you see, was a place associated with triumph and joy. It was where in a previous generation Judas Maccabeus had won a notable victory over Israel’s enemies. The disciples battle was of a different sort, but it was no less – indeed, it was of much greater, significance. For they were transformed on the way by their encounter with the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. We can have a similar experience today, for he is the same yesterday, today and forever. Consider therefore:

### **1. The disciples were doleful and distressed:**

Their faith had failed them...

Their future seemed grim...

The forces of darkness appeared to have prevailed...

## **2. The disciples were dispirited and despairing:**

Their hopes had died with Jesus...

Their hearts had been broken...

Their Head and Lord was dead... or so they thought...

## **3. The disciples were disbelieving or doubting:**

Their love was strained by the horror of what they witnessed and of fear...

Their Lord had not been heeded...

The lesson however would not be wasted... for their worry and woe was remedied in:

## **4. Comprehension:**

a) In canonical scripture...

b) By Christ Jesus...

c) In Communion with Christ and his church... in a fellowship of rooted and built up in love

In conclusion, the lessons are clear. Let us place our faith in Christ... We are more than conquerors in and through him. Let us hope in God's promises which are yes and amen in Christ... Let us love in belonging and believing... Let us believe that our works are not in vain... let us labour for a brighter day...

**Praise:** Abide with me

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide  
The darkness deepens Lord, with me abide  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee  
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away  
Change and decay in all around I see  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness  
Where is death's sting?  
Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee

In life, in death, o Lord, abide with me  
Abide with me, abide with me

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84YASWe3\\_2Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84YASWe3_2Q)

**Prayer of Intercession:** by Alison Paterson

Lord,

We bring our prayers to you in such confused and troubled days. We are living through distressing times when all that was normal has ended. But we come to you in the knowledge that our help comes from you and that you are the same yesterday, today and forever.

We bring our thanks that although humankind is in turmoil here we are surrounded by the beauty and promise of spring unfolding. In these dark times, a gift of hope for which our hearts cry out. Help us to trust in you and strengthen our faith in the storms we face.

We pray for all those affected by the Coronavirus Covid-19.  
For those who have been infected.  
For those who are so sick, they are in hospital.  
For those who are mourning the loss of loved ones.

We pray for the carers and those who are looking after victims of the virus.

- NHS Staff
- Health Workers
- Social Care workers
- Home carers
- Members of the Emergency services

Grant them strength, compassion and love as they work in such difficult days. We give thanks for all those who continue to work to provide us with food and services at risk to their own safety.

We remember that you knew the feeling of abandonment and isolation when you were on the cross. We pray for those who feel lost and isolated and abandoned because of the impact of this sickness on our society. Help us to reach out to our neighbours in need in our community and further afield. Lord, let us live by what you said.

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another”.

Amen

**Praise:** O for a thousand tongues

1. Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing  
My great Redeemer’s praise,  
The glories of my God and king,  
The triumphs of His grace!
2. My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad,  
The honours of Thy name.
3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
That bids our sorrows cease—  
’Tis music in the sinner’s ears,  
’Tis life, and health, and peace.
4. He breaks the pow’r of cancelled sin,  
He sets the prisoner free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean,  
His blood availed for me.
5. He speaks, and, listening to His voice,  
New life the dead receive,  
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice,  
The humble poor believe.
6. Glory to God, and praise and love  
Be ever, ever given  
By saints below and saints above,  
The church in earth and heaven.

I’ve discovered there are multiple versions of this hymn online. I could not find the CH4 version to copy and paste. And the version in the video is shortened but there the lyrics are included to sing along with.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-dEfvz6Vms>

**Benediction:** And the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, now and forevermore. AMEN.