

## Order of Service for 11 April 2021 Easter 2

### Call to worship

Rejoice! The love of God is present with us.  
Rejoice! The power of God is revealed to us. Rejoice!  
the Spirit of God is among us now. Amen.

### Prayer

We thank you that Easter is not about a people, but all people, that your love and your salvation are for all who confess with voices, hearts and lives that the tomb is empty because Jesus is risen, that we might know forgiveness, that lives might be reborn and your name glorified now and for eternity.

### Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it

For by His power each tree and flower  
Was planned and made  
Jesus is Lord! The universe declares it  
Sun, moon and stars in heaven  
Cry, 'Jesus is Lord!'  
*Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!*  
*Praise Him with hallelujahs*  
*For Jesus is Lord!*

Jesus is Lord! Yet from His throne eternal  
In flesh He came to die in pain  
On Calvary's tree  
Jesus is Lord! From Him all life proceeding  
Yet gave His life a ransom  
Thus setting us free *Chorus*

Jesus is Lord! O'er sin the mighty conqueror  
From death He rose, and all His foes  
Shall own His name  
Jesus is Lord! God sent His Holy Spirit  
To show by works of power  
That Jesus is Lord *Chorus*

### Prayer

Thank you, Jesus, for the message of your rising, which transforms our world and lives, bursting into the new life of your presence with us. We rejoice in your closeness and your connection too us. Reveal yourself to us and change us into your likeness of God. Lord Jesus, of the Emmaus Road, come as we walk the lonely path, and be our companion. Come when life mystifies and perplexes. Come into our disappointments and unease. Come into the places where we share bread and the hope of your love and your power. Continue to open our eyes to recognise you. Amen.

### Reading Luke 24 13 – 35

*<sup>13</sup> Later that same day, two of Jesus' disciples were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus, a journey of about seventeen miles. <sup>14-15</sup> They were in the midst of a discussion about all the events of the last few days when Jesus walked up and accompanied them in their journey. <sup>16</sup> They were unaware that it was actually Jesus walking alongside them, for God prevented them from recognizing him. <sup>17-18</sup> Jesus said to them, "You seem to be in a deep discussion about something. What are you talking about, so sad and gloomy?" They stopped, and the one named Cleopas answered, "Haven't you heard? Are you the only one in Jerusalem unaware of the*

*things that have happened over the last few days?" <sup>19</sup> Jesus asked, "What things?" "The things about Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they replied. "He was a mighty prophet of God who performed miracles and wonders. His words were powerful and he had great favour with God and the people. <sup>20-21</sup> But three days ago the high priest and the rulers of the people sentenced him to death and had him crucified. We had all hoped that he was the one who would redeem and rescue Israel. <sup>22</sup> Early this morning, some of the women informed us of something amazing. <sup>23</sup> They said they went to the tomb and found it empty. They claimed two angels appeared and told them that Jesus is now alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of us went to see for ourselves and found the tomb exactly as the women had said. But no one has seen him." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to them, "Why are you so thick-headed? Why do you find it so hard to believe every word the prophets have spoken? <sup>26</sup> Wasn't it necessary for the Messiah to experience all these sufferings and afterward to enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the prophets he carefully unveiled to them the revelation of himself throughout the Scriptures. <sup>28</sup> As they approached the village, Jesus walked on ahead, telling them he was going on to a distant place. <sup>29</sup> They urged him to remain there with them and pleaded, "Stay with us. It will be dark soon." So, Jesus went with them into the village. <sup>30</sup> Joining them at the table for supper, he took bread and blessed it and broke it, then gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> All at once their eyes were opened and they realized he was Jesus! Then suddenly, in a flash, Jesus vanished from before their eyes! <sup>32</sup> Stunned, they looked at each other and said, "Why didn't we recognize him? Didn't our hearts burn with the flames of holy passion while we walked beside him? He unveiled for us such profound revelation from the Scriptures!" <sup>33</sup> They left at once and hurried back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples. When they found the Eleven and the other disciples altogether, <sup>34</sup> they overheard them saying, "It's really true! The Lord has risen from the dead. He even appeared to Peter!" <sup>35</sup> Then the two disciples told the others what had happened to them on the road to Emmaus and how Jesus had unveiled himself in the breaking of bread.*

### A voice from Emmaus (separate sheet)

#### Message

Where is Jesus now? Jesus accompanies us in the ups and downs of life. Why would he do this? Because his life was lived to the glory and purpose of God, which comes from God's heart of love for the world and its peoples. This is the message of Easter. Jesus has defeated death and is risen and present with us. The power of God is revealed and we are blessed with eternal life. On the resurrection day, the information of Jesus conquering death was not really known widely. There was also a scepticism about the testimony that had been received by Jesus followers. It was incredibly confusing for those who heard the message. A range of feelings was being felt by Cleopas and his wife, Mary were getting out of the city to have space and time to think. They needed love and support in their distress, disappointment and grief, and Jesus walks with them. Why don't they recognise him? Well, they are not in

their right mind having experienced what Jesus went through, just a few days before. I would think they were in deep shock, but despite that they are open to talking to a stranger, on their journey. When we face difficult situations, we can be assured that Jesus is with us, throughout our trials. But there is more to Jesus than a stranger who encourages us to look at our scriptures and find out why God has made this plan, using the most precious thing, Jesus, God's son. The conversation must have been distracting because when they thought they were to be parted from the stranger, they offered him hospitality so they could spend more time in discussion. The discussion continued, until Jesus broke the bread they were sharing and, at last, they recognised him as he shared in something that made sense to them. It was a familiar memory that brought other memories of time they spent with Jesus. Maybe they were with Jesus at the feeding of the five thousand or had shared a meal with Jesus before. Whatever it was that changed their perspective and Jesus was revealed. This shows how human they were and how what was happening was distracting, for their bodies, minds and spirit and Jesus allowed them to refocus and see Jesus risen and understand how God was working. Once they recognised Jesus, they had to recount their story for the disciples and followers to give them encouragement, just like Jesus had encouraged them on the road. We like Cleopas and his wife have a story to tell about our encounters with Jesus. It is unique story, a personal story. If we feel that our faith story can sustain us and keep us faithful, as we remember how much Jesus means to us and gives us life, then we, like them, need to share our story, when prompted to do so, by the Holy Spirit. This energy and life we receive from God, through the person of Jesus, is what people need to hear, so that they can know Jesus for themselves. I am sure that you have experienced the kindness of a stranger who helped you, when you needed it. We are called by God to walk alongside people so that we can introduce Jesus to them, because he is crucial to our life. Jesus was a great demonstrator and the stranger walking alongside, ready to share what we know about Jesus and the grace and truth about God. We need to listen to the Holy Spirit and allow the hearts of people to be bathed in the risen light of a resurrected Jesus, and they will recognise him, for themselves.

*Tune: Banks and Braes*

### **We cannot measure how you heal**

Or answer every sufferer's prayer  
Yet we believe your grace responds  
where faith and doubt unite to care.  
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,  
Survive to hold and heal and warm,  
To carry all through death to life  
to cradle children, yet unborn.

The pain that will not go away,  
The guilt that clings from things long past,  
The fear of what the future holds  
Are present, as if meant to last.  
But present too is love which tends  
The hurt we never hoped to find,  
The private agonies inside,

The memories that haunt the mind.  
So, some have come who need your help,  
And some have come to make amends;  
Your hands with shaped and saved the world.  
Are present in the touch of friends.  
Lord, let your spirit meet us here  
To mend the body, mind and soul,  
To disentangle peace from pain  
And make your wounded people whole.

### **Lord's Prayer & Prayer**

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the love and care of our family and the new freedoms we can enjoy together. Locked in isolation and now released to family and friends. Jesus you know the darkness of life, which causes humans hurt and distress. Unfulfilled dreams, health concerns and personal issues which crowd around us and make us feel afraid. Into this darkness pour the light of your loving presence and forgiveness, release all people who are captive in hurt or sorrow. Show us the light of your presence, Lord Jesus to face life with hope and forgiveness. As we emerge from lockdown, reassure us of your presence with us, that we, and those we cherish are held in your abundant love. Your world and your people are hurting in many ways. We pray for all who need your love and care today. Amen.

### **I want to walk with Jesus Christ**

All the days I live of this life on earth  
To give to Him complete control  
Of body and of soul  
*Follow Him, follow Him, yield your life to Him*  
*He has conquered death, He is King of kings*  
*Accept the joy which He gives to those*  
*Who yield their lives to Him*

I want to learn to speak to Him  
To pray to Him, confess my sin  
To open my life and let Him in  
For joy will then be mine. *Chorus*

I want to learn to speak of Him  
My life must show that He lives in me  
My deeds, my thoughts, my words must speak  
All of His love for me. *Chorus*

I want to learn to read His word  
For this is how I know the way  
To live my life as pleases Him  
In holiness and joy. *Chorus*

O Holy Spirit of the Lord  
Enter now into this heart of mine  
Take full control of my selfish will  
And make me wholly Thine. *Chorus.*

### **Prayer & Blessing**

Living God, Jesus your Son, made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see Jesus in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

