

## **Christ Church, Ipswich**

*Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026*

*Family Worship for The Third Sunday of Easter*

Hello, Friends. Let us worship God together:

### **Call to worship**

Come to worship the risen Christ  
with open eyes and ears, minds and hearts.  
Come, prepared, expecting, desiring –  
to discover and know more of Christ.

### **A gathering prayer**

Loving Lord,  
as we come to worship,  
help us to see and hear not only the familiar  
but the unexpected, the new, the different.  
Help us to understand and have a new awareness  
of you and of your story,  
of your love and your presence in our lives. **Amen.**

### **A prayer of approach**

We gather together today, Lord,  
the events of Easter still fresh in our minds.  
We still have our questions.  
We wonder how we can join the dots,  
learn the best way to live the life we are called to.  
Open our eyes, Lord,  
so that we might see the stranger in our midst.  
Give us openness to listen to their stories.  
Remind us that we just never know when we might come  
across Jesus, our friend, our Lord and master.  
Open our eyes and our hearts, Lord. **Amen.**

### **R&S 234 Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord**

*Alleluia, alleluia,  
give thanks to the risen Lord,  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
give praise to his name.*

1 Jesus is Lord of all the earth,  
he is the King of creation.

2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth,  
Jesus has died and has risen.

3 We have been crucified with Christ,  
now we shall live forever.

4 Come let us praise the living God,  
joyfully sing to our Saviour.

Donald Fishel. (1950-)  
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### **A prayer of adoration**

They asked each other,  
 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us?'  
 Lord Jesus, you met with people in so many ways.  
 Ordinary ways – walking, talking, eating with them.  
 But also extraordinary – because you were there.  
 You are an extraordinary God; we worship and adore you. **Amen.**

### **A prayer of confession and an assurance of forgiveness**

*Keep a few moments of silence after each refrain.*

Lord, for the times we hear the Scriptures  
 and our hearts don't burn within us:  
**be with us, stay with us, forgive us.**  
 When we don't recognise Jesus in our midst  
 because we're just not looking:  
**be with us, stay with us, forgive us.**  
 When we are too blind to see you in the simple things:  
**be with us, stay with us, forgive us.**  
 When we are too wrapped up in ourselves  
 to break bread together:  
**be with us, stay with us, forgive us.**  
 When we don't treat strangers with the respect they are due,  
 or look the other way:  
**be with us, stay with us, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

### **Assurance of forgiveness**

Jesus was with the two on the road to Emmaus;  
 working in their lives, even though they didn't know it.  
 Jesus is with us on our road;  
 working in our lives, even when we don't feel it.  
 Lord Jesus, you spoke on that road through the simple action of  
 breaking the bread.  
 Speak to us now through your divine forgiveness and love.  
*Keep a moment of silence.*  
 We hear you, Lord. **Amen.**

### **An all-age prayer of thanksgiving**

Lord, as we think about the coming week,  
 may we recognise Jesus in everyone we meet.  
 May our whole lives be a beacon of praise and thanksgiving,  
 pointing to the one we love.  
 May we take every chance we get,  
 to talk about what you mean to us and show our love.  
 As we share with each other we get to know each other better,  
 and we grow stronger, and you, O God,  
 are revealed in a multitude of ways.  
 Thank you, Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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.

## Family Talk

### BPW 444 Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us

1 Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have come to us,  
you are one with us,  
Mary's son;  
cleansing our souls from all their sin,  
pouring your love and goodness in,  
Jesus, our love for you we sing,  
Living Lord.

2 Lord Jesus Christ,  
now and every day  
teach us how to pray,  
Son of God.  
You have commanded us to do  
this, in remembrance, Lord, of you;  
into our lives your power breaks through,  
living Lord.

3 Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have come to us,  
born as one of us,  
Mary's son -  
led out to die on Calvary,  
risen from death to set us free,  
living Lord Jesus, help us see,  
you are Lord.

4 Lord Jesus Christ,  
I would come to you,  
live my life for you,  
Son of God;  
all your commands, I know are true,  
your many gifts will make me new,  
into my life your power breaks through,  
Living Lord.

Patrick Appleford (1925-2018)

### *The children go to Junior Church with our love and blessing*

#### Gospel Reading

Luke 24:13-35

NT page 83

#### *The Walk to Emmaus*

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came 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 are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> 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?' <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over 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 took place. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> 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.' <sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. <sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> 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?' <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**R&S 243 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain**

1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

2 In the grave they laid him, Love whom we had slain,  
thinking that he never would awake again,  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:  
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

3 Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,  
he that for the three days in the grave had lain,  
quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:  
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
then your touch can call us back to life again,  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:  
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

J. M. C. Crum (1872-1958) altd.\*

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**Reflection*****A moment for reflection*****BPW 330 Come, let us sing of a wonderful love**

1 Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,  
tender and true;  
out of the heart of the Father above,  
streaming to me and to you:  
wonderful love  
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

2 Jesus, the Saviour, this gospel to tell,  
joyfully came;  
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,  
sharing their sorrow and shame;  
seeking the lost,  
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.

3 Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;  
why do they roam?  
Love only waits to forgive and forget;  
home! weary wanderers, home!  
Wonderful love  
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

4 Come to my heart now, O wonderful Love,  
come and abide,  
lifting my life till it rises above  
envy and falsehood and pride;  
seeking to be  
lowly and humble, a learner of Thee.

Robert Walmsley (1831–1905)

**Our prayers of intercession**

So we pray to our saviour. For those of us who are struggling to understand your almighty plan for the world. For those of us who, like the disciples walking with Jesus, failed to see him with them. For those of us who are losing our faith, and losing our way. For those of us who are feeling lost and do not know your presence close to them.

Lord, walk alongside.

You walked alongside your disciples, sharing the Scriptures.

**And your glory was revealed, and they returned to live for you.**

So we pray to our saviour. For those who are facing rising costs and are unable to afford fuel for heating and for their cars as prices go up. For those who daily face decisions about what to spend their last money on. For those who have never known the comfort of having savings to fall back on. For those making decisions about money and tax that will affect everyone.

Lord, walk alongside.

You walked alongside your disciples, sharing the Scriptures.

**And your glory was revealed, and they returned to live for you.**

So we pray to our saviour. For those who have important tests and exams in the next few weeks and months. For those facing the fear of not understanding or remembering all that they need to. For those who feel that their best will never be good enough. For those feeling unfairly pressured by family or friends to do well.

Lord, walk alongside.

You walked alongside your disciples, sharing the Scriptures.

**And your glory was revealed, and they returned to live for you.**

So we pray to our saviour. For those who make decisions and live their lives to help people and change others for the better. For all those involved in the health service who may feel overwhelmed and under pressure. For those who set an example and encourage aspirations as teachers and educators. For social workers, those working in courts, and those working for agencies that help anyone in need. For those in our church community who in little but vital ways set an example to others.

Lord, walk alongside.

You walked alongside your disciples, sharing the Scriptures.

**And your glory was revealed, and they returned to live for you.**

So we pray to our saviour. For the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Israel, the leaders of Iran and other middle-east countries, our Prime Minister and other leaders. For caution, wisdom and a desire for peace to be present in all of their thinking and saying. For care to be taken in what is made public to avoid an escalation of death and destruction. For calm and caution to replace aggression and threatening words. For peace to reign.

Lord, walk alongside.

You walked alongside your disciples, sharing the Scriptures.

**And your glory was revealed, and they returned to live for you.**

So we pray to our saviour. For those who have suffered the loss of someone close to them. For those lost in the darkness of sadness and depression. For those gripped by addiction, and those who are sick and ill and needing healing and peace. For those in our own community who need to know your presence alongside them right now.

Lord, walk alongside.

You walked alongside your disciples, sharing the Scriptures.

**And your glory was revealed, and they returned to live for you.**

So we pray to our saviour. For those who are facing a busy and challenging week with pressure at work, college or school. For those who have tough decisions to make. For those who would dearly love to be in friendship and harmony with people they have fallen out with. For all of us as we live this coming week as God's servants and people who are listening and learning from Jesus.

Lord, walk alongside.

You walked alongside your disciples, sharing the Scriptures.

**And your glory was revealed, and they returned to live for you.**

**BPW 251            I know that my Redeemer lives!**

1 I know that my Redeemer lives!

What joy the blest assurance gives!

He lives, he lives, who once was dead;

He lives, my everlasting Head!

2 He lives, to bless me with his love;

He lives, to plead for me above;

He lives, my hungry soul to feed;

He lives, to help in time of need.

3 He lives, and grants me daily breath;

He lives, and I shall conquer death;

He lives, my mansion to prepare;

He lives, to lead me safely there.

4 He lives, all glory to his name;

He lives, my Saviour, still the same;

What joy the blest assurance gives!

I know that my Redeemer lives!

Samuel Medley (1738-99)

**A sending out prayer**

Lord Jesus,  
as you walked on the road to Emmaus,  
walk with us on the roads we travel.  
Help us to know your presence with us,  
and to be your presence to others.  
And, at the end of the day,  
may we all enjoy your feast. Amen

**The Blessing**

And may the blessing of God,  
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,  
be with you and with those you love,  
This day and always, Amen.

**The Grace**

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore. Amen.**