

18 April 2021

*Christ Church New Southgate
& Friern Barnet*

Please join with us at 11am to read this service together either in person, in printed form, whatapp or via the youtube link on our website www.christchurchnsfb.org

Each person in the church is assigned a deacon who will call you to see if you are alright in these times and to pray for you.

Welcome to our communion service today. Please have something to drink and something to eat to take part.

Song: The cross that made the change
Common Hymnal (Justin Gray)
<https://youtu.be/nTCInGINYCw>

When they saw Jesus,
they saw a teenage mother
They saw an unbelieving brother,
just a man in poverty
But when I see Jesus,
I see the sovereign and a saviour
I see the healer of the nations,
I see the stone rolled away

Nobody thought that this son of sorrows
Would be broken for love to fix our
tomorrows

But it's the cross that made the change
It's the cross that made the change
And I'll let everybody know
That it's the cross that made the change

When they saw Jesus,
they saw a rebel and a problem
They did everything to stop him,
even put him on a tree
But I when see Jesus,
I see the sovereign and the saviour
I see the healer of the nations,

I see the glory from Galilee
Now when we see Jesus we become like Jesus
When we know how he sees us, we will never
be the same

Active Apostles Creed

ALL: We believe in God,

(Point up)

the Father

(Cross two fingers from both hands)

almighty,

(Raise two fists)

who sent

(Point a finger)

Jesus

(Touch each palm)

into

(praying hands)

the world.

(raise hands to side)

He came as a baby

(rock a baby)

Born of the holy spirit

Was crucified,

(Lift arms to side)

died

(Drop head)

And was buried.

(Curl up)

On the third day

(Hold 3 fingers up)

He rose again from the dead

(Raise arm up)

He ascended into heaven

(Lift both arms above head)

Where he prays for us continually.

(Praying hands)

Praise the lord

(Lift hands up high)

Halleluia!

Blessed be the Lord Jesus who comes to meet us in the scriptures and as we share communion today. May his peace, which drives away all fear, be always with you.

Reading: Luke 24.13-16

All age activity: Sound game

Close your eyes and listen to these sounds.
What do you think they are? Are you right?

Coconut halves hit together
Bubble wrap popped
Rice poured into metal dish

Reading: Luke 24.17-35 by Joan Gray

Confession Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are our companion on our
journey of faith

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you speak to us when the
Scriptures are read

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you nourish us with the
bread and drink of communion

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Prayer: O God of wonders,
you made this day for joy and gladness.
Let the risen Lord abide with us this day,
opening the Scriptures to us
and breaking bread in our midst.
Set our hearts aflame and open our eyes,
that we may see in his sufferings
all that the prophets foretold
and recognize him at this table,
the Christ now entered into glory,
who lives with you now and always
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. AMEN.

Sermon: Walking with Christ

I wonder if you saw an intriguing story in the news this week from Poland? Animal welfare officers in the Polish city of Krakow were called out after a woman reported seeing a strange creature sitting in a tree. According to

the Kraków Society for the Protection of Animals (KTOZ), which runs the city's main animal shelter, a "desperate" woman called the charity to report a "creature" had been hiding in the tree for two days. Neighbours she said weren't opening their windows "because they're afraid it will go into their house. It looks like an iguana."

When officers arrived, they saw the "creature's brown skin glistening in the sun". And noted that "the poor thing had no legs or head". But when they got a ladder and looked closely, it became clear that it was not an iguana but a croissant. A baked breakfast delight stuck in a tree. At the moment it is very easy to see things we don't understand, hear things that scare us and we come to conclusion that makes sense but isn't right.

The two travellers on the Emmaus road had seen Jesus live, suffer and die and they couldn't make sense of it. Why would the messiah need to suffer? Maybe they had given up hope that he was the messiah. They had heard from the women disciples that Jesus was alive, but none of it made sense as they trudged out of town. Our worlds have been turned upside down and inside out in the pandemic.

I used to know how to keep healthy, socialise with friends, book a holiday and now I find myself saying – I'm not sure, we'll have to arrange it nearer the time, what tier are we in? what part of the roadmap have we reached? Do you feel the same? The heart of the gospel is this: Jesus is present with us now. He is present with us when we are confused, dazed and trying to head out of town. He present with us on each and every road that we take and he is happy to talk to us and help us by sharing knowledge of God in these times of trial and confusion. Jesus walked along with his followers at Emmaus and Jesus is walking with us on our roadmap.

The confusion of the followers of Christ comes from their disbelief that the Messiah should suffer. How can they understand all that has happened? Only with heavy hearts and

downcast faces. But Jesus reminds the followers that it was necessary for the messiah to suffer. Everyone expected the prophets to suffer, but the messiah – the anointed one? The one who would save the people of God? Jesus helps the followers on the road to think about the purpose of God in Jesus' suffering.

By entering suffering, God changes the story for humanity and reminds us of how to live. God seeks humility over pride, god meets death with resurrection, old with new, cheap for the best. God sees the rejection of Christ by the people and raises him to new life. Christ suffers yes but God greets him in glory. God is not defeated but triumphant.

It was only when the animal welfare officers in Poland found a ladder and took a closer look at the mysterious animal in the tree that they discovered it was a croissant. Here at the end of our reading in Luke we find the followers of Christ, taking a closer look at the man who has been walking with them.

It was something about the way he took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them that their eyes were opened, and they realize it is Jesus. Jesus- who they have given up looking for, him who they'd hoped would be someone else, him who was suddenly walking beside them along the road to Emmaus.

Whether it was like how he shared the five loaves and fishes back in chapter 9, or whether the last supper had become widely known, Jesus was seen at the table, suddenly his presence made everything clear. As Jesus' presence enables the Emmaus walkers to see him, all of scripture came into full focus. Suddenly they could see it was him. The one who they'd been searching for, in the prophets, and the rest of the Old Testament.

Jesus appeared to many different people after the resurrection, but here Jesus is walking with those who are confused, who are doubting, who cannot make sense of all they have heard. They felt like their promises and hopes had

been dashed, no longer was religion something inspiring.

May we take comfort today that Christ walks alongside those who are not sure, those who can see the facts, but can't yet see Jesus.

May we take comfort from Christ and ask him to stay with us. For Christ's presence in our lives enables us to find a new way of looking at the world, where the son of God is one who suffers, dies and is alive in glory now. Christ's presence helps us to see a new truth, that the poor, humble and suffering are important to God and deeply valued by him. Christ's presence in suffering offers each of us hope for the resurrected Christ offers transformation for us all.

May our journey as individuals, as a church and a community be one that allows Christ to share and speak into our confusion and bring his realization of hope and transformation to us. May we draw strength from the God who walks with us and helps us to recognize his presence in suffering and glory. Amen

Intercession

Recalling how the disciples on the road to Emmaus found comfort in God's Word and recognized Christ in the breaking of bread, we pray for the needs of the Church and the world.

With confidence we pray:
Stay with us, Lord.

For our church: that it may be a community where Jesus of Nazareth is proclaimed in Word, encountered at communion, and seen on the face of each person around us.

With confidence we pray:
Stay with us, Lord.

For all the sick and dying in our community: we remember ...

may they find strength in Christ who had first to suffer before entering into glory.

With confidence we pray:
Stay with us, Lord.

For the sad and disillusioned and those who feel that they have lost their way in a meaningless world, that Christ may renew their faith and hope.

With confidence we pray:
Stay with us, Lord.

For peace in the world, especially in the Myanmar, Mozambique, Yemen, Hong Kong and in all countries where the struggle for life, terror and violence have become a part of daily life.

With confidence we pray:
Stay with us, Lord.

Thank you, God, for revealing yourself in your beloved Son, Jesus. Wherever your word is spoken, wherever bread is broken, may your name be hallowed forever and ever.
AMEN.

*Communion
Thanksgiving prayer*

Lord our God, provident Father,
as we gather around bread and drink.
Grant that Jesus may set our hearts afire
when he speaks to us words that make life
worth living.
Grant also that he be our food
on the road to you,
for we believe that he is our Risen Lord,
who stays with us now and for ever. AMEN.

Lord's prayer

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.

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
on the evening of the first day of the week,
you walked with your disheartened disciples
on the road to Emmaus and you said to them:
"Was it not necessary that the Christ should
suffer and so enter his glory"?
Grant that we who have heard
the message of Easter,
may experience his presence
as we enjoy the peace
and unity of his kingdom
where you live for ever and ever.
May the peace which Christ
brought to his apostles
be with you always. AMEN

Share sign language peace

Share in bread and drink

Lord of life,
we thank you for Jesus.
Through him you have
worked mighty deeds,
wonders and signs,
and have exalted him
to your right hand.

Send your Spirit upon us
so that, like the disciples
on the road to Emmaus,
our hearts may burn within us as
we read the Scriptures
and break bread in the name of Christ
our Lord. AMEN

All Stand

Blessing

You have heard the Word of God spoken to
you this day.

AMEN.

You have received the bread of life broken
for you this day.

AMEN.

May you share God's hope with the message
of life.

AMEN.

May almighty God bless you,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

AMEN.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Go forth and bear witness to Christ who is
gloriously risen from the dead.

Thanks be to God. **Alleluia!**
Thanks be to God. **Alleluia!**

Liturgy and prayers drawn from:
[https://www.24-
7prayer.com/officesemmrdeucharist](https://www.24-7prayer.com/officesemmrdeucharist)