



Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

Sunday 18th April 2021 "Jesus walks with his church" Luke 24: 13-35.

These written worship sheets are for you to use as we gather, as one, in our homes to worship God. We are in the time between Easter Sunday and Pentecost and this is the perfect time to be considering the role of the Church: in our lives, our community and the world, to "make Jesus known." I believe and trust that "Jesus builds His renewed Church" will really help us, as followers of Jesus, to learn some important truths. May God's Holy Spirit guide and unite us in these weeks ahead.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Good morning church!

Opening words:

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it
but it shall be for God's people
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. **Amen**

Isaiah 35: 8-10.

Prayer: Loving and gracious God, thank you for each other, our spiritual family, each dearly loved brother and sister of our fellowship, near and far. We pray for Your blessing upon us this morning, we pray for Your Holy Spirit to fill us and guide us for the week ahead. Lord, may we encounter You in our prayers, our silence and reverence, our



singing and the reading and reflection on Your Holy Word. We come this morning not as a duty, a tradition or an observance but as redeemed children of light, eager to be in Your presence, to worship You, to learn and be strengthened by You for the days ahead. As you revealed yourself to the two walkers on the Emmaus road, reveal yourself afresh to us today, open our minds.

For friends or family members who do not yet know You as their trusted and loving Father, speak to them this morning Lord and melt their hearts. We pray in the name of Jesus, our precious risen Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

We sing: From the breaking of the dawn (every promise) StF156
Sing/read /pray /proclaim the words.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3l8RVhxndYg&t=6s&ab_channel=MissionWorship

From the breaking of the dawn
to the setting of the sun
I will stand on every promise of your word.
Words of power strong to save
that will never pass away;
I will stand on every promise of your word.
For your covenant is sure,

and on this I am secure:
I can stand on every promise from your word.

When I stumble and I sin,
condemnation pressing in,
I will stand on every promise of your word.
You are faithful to forgive,
that in freedom I might live,
so I stand on every promise of your word.
Guilt to innocence restored;
you remember sins no more;
so I'll stand on every promise of your word.

When I'm faced with anguished choice
I will listen for your voice,
and I'll stand on every promise of your word.
Through this dark and troubled land,
you will guide me with your hand
as I stand on every promise of your word.
And you've promised to complete
every work begun in me,
so I'll stand on every promise of your word.

Hope that lifts me from despair,
love that casts out every fear
as I stand on every promise of your word.
Not forsaken, not alone,
for the Comforter has come,
and I stand on every promise of your word.
Grace sufficient, grace for me,
grace for all who will believe.
We will stand on every promise of your word.

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend © 2005 Thankyou Music

Prayer of Confession:

if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear them from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. – 2 Chronicles 7:14

Lord Jesus Christ, for the times when we have not taken the opportunities You have given us to be a faithful witness. Lord forgive, **Christ have mercy.**

For the times when we lack the humility and grace, when we think we know better than others and when we talk more than listen. Lord forgive, **Christ have mercy.**

When we lack the courage to say what needs to be said or do what needs to be done, thinking that favour with man is more important than favour with You. Lord forgive, **Christ have mercy.**

Pause

Lord Jesus, I name the specific things for which I am asking Your forgiveness...

Pause

A time of silence to hear what the Lord may be saying to us today. To rest in His presence, to know in your heart His perfect peace, a time to accept His offer of forgiveness and be washed clean of sin.

God of love and power, thank You for Your forgiveness from my sins, strengthen me by Your Holy Spirit so that I may walk, this and every day, the path of righteousness and holiness with You. My past life of sin and the snares of the world behind me and You ever before me. I am forever Yours, a redeemed and transformed child of light, bought with Your sacrifice and blood on a cruel yet now empty cross, I am dead to sin and fully and gloriously alive in You. **Amen.**

Song: Even though I walk through the valley
StF626

Sing/read /pray/ proclaim the words.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y83-vMeWc9E&ab_channel=solidrok

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
Your perfect love is casting out fear
Even when I'm caught in the middle of the storms of this life
I won't turn back I know you are near.

And I will fear no evil
For my God is with me
And if my God is with me
Whom then shall I fear?
Whom then shall I fear?

Oh no, you never let go
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no, you never let go

In every high and every low
Oh no, you never let go
Lord, you never let go of me.

And I can see a light that is coming for the heart
that holds on
A glorious light beyond all compare
And there will be an end to these troubles but
until that day comes
We'll live to know you here on the earth.

And I will fear no evil
For my God is with me
And if my God is with me
Whom then shall I fear?
Whom then shall I fear?

Oh no, you never let go
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no, you never let go
In every high and every low
Oh no, you never let go
Lord, you never let go of me. Matt Redman

Our Lord's Prayer (the Christian family prayer):

Our Father in Heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the Kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. **Amen.**

Prayer: Lord, prepare our hearts for the reading
of Your Word, like someone undertaking an
exciting journey may we be full of hope and
expectation. Help us to understand the meaning
of what we are reading and how You are speaking
to us through it. May Your Holy Spirit, who
inspired these words, come to us now in our
homes in power and truth **Amen.**

Scripture Reading: Luke 24: 13-35

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to
a village called Emmaus, about seven
miles^[a] from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with
each other about everything that had
happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these
things with each other, Jesus himself came up
and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were
kept from recognising him.

¹⁷ He asked them, 'What are you discussing
together as you walk along?'

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of
them, named Cleopas, asked him, 'Are you the
only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know
the things that have happened there in these
days?'

¹⁹ 'What things?' he asked.

'About Jesus of Nazareth,' they replied. 'He was a
prophet, powerful in word and deed before God
and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our
rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death,
and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that
he was the one who was going to redeem Israel.
And what is more, it is the third day since all this
took place. ²² In addition, some of our women
amazed us. They went to the tomb early this
morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came
and told us that they had seen a vision of angels,
who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our
companions went to the tomb and found it just
as the women had said, but they did not see
Jesus.'

²⁵ He said to them, 'How foolish you are, and how
slow to believe all that the prophets have
spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer
these things and then enter his glory?' ²⁷ And
beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he
explained to them what was said in all the
Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they
were going, Jesus continued on as if he were
going further. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly,

‘Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.’ So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?’

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, ‘It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.’ ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognised by them when he broke the bread. New International Version (UK).

A time to pause, read again, pray, and reflect.

Preaching Notes: these notes are from the transcript for the weekly video which can be viewed on our YouTube channel .

Lord, open our eyes and ears to see and to hear, open our minds to understand, open our hearts to respond. **Amen.**

The Emmaus Road story is well known. It is gripping because it is in many ways it is our own story...when we lose hope because our dreams and expectations have been crushed. When, as a church and as individuals we are left with trying to pick up the pieces following the Covid pandemic we are like the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Yet this story highlights the living hope that we have in the Resurrection of Jesus.

Paul wrote (1 Cor 15:19,20). "If we have hope in Christ in this life only, we are the most miserable of all men. But now Christ is risen from the dead."

But on that first Easter day that living hope was all but extinguished for the two disciples on their way back home to Emmaus. The teacher they had loved and followed had been cruelly put to death on a cross and he lay dead in a sealed tomb.

Their hopes were dashed... the dream was over and so they were returning home. The reports that the tomb was empty had only confused them. Their entire world had come apart. The two downhearted disciples summed up the situation when they said, "we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel."

Human hope is a fragile thing; have you ever experienced such hopelessness? When the news you have just received is too hard to bear, when there seems no way out, when there seems nothing you can do. When the prospect of continuing on is too painful.

If you ever heard yourself or someone else say these words then you have a bit of an idea what the two disciples were grappling with.

Hopelessness is desperately hard to cure. When you see someone you love and care for overtaken by an illness that goes on and on, despair sets in. It almost becomes impossible to hope for recovery... you even become afraid to hope because you don't know if you can cope with another let down. And so we put up a wall around us, and we become trapped in our misery.

"We had hoped ..." they said, but what they really meant was "We don't expect it anymore... it's not going to happen... The hope we once had has gone." "There is nothing left to do." Have you experienced that heartbreaking disappointment in your own life?

But, this isn't the full story... Praise God!

As the travelers made their weary way to Emmaus a stranger fell alongside them, We know, of course, that it was the risen Jesus, but somehow they didn't recognize him. Maybe they were too preoccupied to look him in the eye. They were grieving a great loss in their lives! Jesus comes alongside them and listens as they poured out their hearts. Jesus draws alongside them and fills their hearts with the promises from Scripture, and ultimately with hope and understanding.

Jesus enters their pain, and allows them to share their story of disappointment. And as they tell the stranger what they thought the teacher from Galilee was all about Jesus unpacks for them the full mystery of God's plan of salvation. He fills their broken hearts with a lesson in faith and hope. Starting right with the story of the fall of man, and how God deals with our human failure... Jesus told them about God's plan of salvation in the OT..... the thread of God's activity in the lives of His people... Abraham, Isaac & Jacob, Moses and the prophets... the Exodus out of Egypt... the Suffering Servant in the book of Isaiah... And then he said, "Did not the Christ have to suffer these things ..." Yes, "suffering"... that's the one thing they hadn't factored in... Like many of us, the disciples were counting on a Messiah who would rule with Power and crush the enemies of Israel, who would establish the Kingdom of God on earth once and for all. Who would make life easy. They could not conceive of the idea of a Messiah who would suffer and die on a roman cross. And maybe today, when we lose sight of scriptural truth Jesus says to us what he said to the disciples, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken."

Then Luke tells us that, "As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he was going further." It seemed as Jesus was going on, he was going to leave them. But their hearts had been strangely warmed during the course of the conversation and so they invited him in and as he broke the bread and gave a blessing, when they saw his hands, they instantly knew him and in that instant he was gone.

Did that leave them doubly disappointed – feeling even more hopeless to have lost him again? NO, they suddenly realized that Christ is risen from the dead. There was indeed a reason to be hopeful and they couldn't keep that hope to themselves. They had to share the Good News.

Their broken hearts had been transformed and were burning with a passion to share with everyone what they had seen and experienced

Christian hope has that powerful effect on us. It transforms ordinary people, like the Emmaus Disciples... like you and me into passionate witnesses of the risen Lord!

As we seek to move forward from this Covid Pandemic in our own lives, as we seek to move forward new ways of being church and worshipping God we need to remember the lessons from this account. If we face defeat, despair and disappointment in our personal life or church life, Jesus is alongside us whether we recognise him or not. He listens to us and understands our pain and anguish. He will reveal Gods purpose for us and in his resurrected presence will join us on our journey and give us a certain hope.

May our hearts be warmed by His company and may our lives be ignited with passion to share with all that we have seen the risen Lord. **Amen**

Written by Local Preacher Brian Skelley

Offering: Had we been meeting physically this is the point when we would have taken our offering for God's work. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving.

Prayer: Lord we offer up our gifts, all things come from You and from Your hand we have gratefully received., **Amen**

Participation in God's Mission: In this week's video Phil meets Dave Pegg and Marcus Hanna from local school's mission organisation PACE (Programme for Applied Christian Education). PACE are actively engaging with the schools of our area, introducing children to Jesus in varied and relevant ways through assemblies and lunch and after school clubs. They partner with local churches in three very specific ways "Pray, Serve and Give." If you are unable to watch the video please request a transcript of the conversation. See the work of PACE www.pacetrust.org.uk

Prayers of Intercession: Lord, we come with our prayers for your church here on earth. The disciples did not recognise you when you walked with them on the road to Emmaus. Help us, Lord, to see you and to realise that you

continually walk with us as we seek to do your will.

We continue to pray for her majesty the Queen in her deep loss of a loving and faithful husband. May she know your loving arms around her. Strengthen to face each day as she continues with her royal duties as head of state. We pray for your support to her family as they grieve the loss of a father, grandfather and great grandfather. May they all be brought closer to one another, knowing the love of Jesus in their lives. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people of Minneapolis, following the shooting of Daunte Wright. Please bring peace in the midst of all their fighting against the police, and comfort Daunte's family in their sad loss. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the fighting in Northern Ireland to cease. May all people there seek a way to bring reconciliation and understanding to people on both sides of the struggle. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for people in England to act sensibly as the lockdown is eased. May they not crowd together. We thank you that the virus is slowly being overcome as more and more people are given their vaccinations. We continue to pray for all those who are grieving the loss of a loved one because of Covid-19. Support the NHS staff as they care for those suffering in hospital. Bless all who work tirelessly, day after day, to bring healing to all who are sick. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We pray, Lord, for your churches at Bransgore and Highcliffe, as we seek your will to guide us towards the future. Show us your way, as we begin to open our buildings once again. We thank you that we have been kept together as two fellowships through the Worship at Home sheets and the videos. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are sick in body or in mind, and for all who are housebound. We pray especially for Elaine as she recovers from her

knee operation. We pray for Pam as she is having a similar operation. Be close to all who are lonely and comfort all who are bereaved. May we know that you never leave us and are constantly by our side. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

These prayers we offer through our risen Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.** Contributed by Worship Leader Pam Sturtridge

Closing Song: Blessed Assurance StF548
Sing/read/pray/proclaim words.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=veefs0hnkA8&ab_channel=lovegodandloveothers

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story...

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

This is my story...

Frances Jane van Alstyne (Fanny Crosby) (1820-1915)

Benediction: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters in Christ.

Amen Romans 15:13 and Galatians 6:18.

Next week: "Jesus commissions his church."

Phillip Dixon, April 2021. YouTube links are external resources and are provided to help you engage with the songs. Singing the Faith and Hymns and Psalms resources are provided under license: CCLI 178182.