

JOINT CHURCHES PRAYER EVENING

A JOURNEY WITH JESUS – A story for our times: going deeper...



Jesus himself came up and walked along with them...(Luke 24:15)

LUKE 24: 13-36

At home, perhaps read the whole of this beautiful passage of encouragement for our times

After Jesus' resurrection the disciples stepped out into a completely new unfamiliar world that they didn't understand.

In our hearts we can imagine them alone, together, searching for their familiar lives...with Jesus.

And us? Let's be one of the disciples for a moment in their strange new world on their strange new journey – our way ahead unclear....perhaps we're meeting together in dismay in our "safe house" the Upper Room, or returning home.



*Can we empathise with the disciples, have we perhaps felt the same bewilderment at moments during these past unfamiliar months?

*And as we look ahead now...?

Prayer: Silently or out loud...

Talk freely to Jesus about any/all of those times.

He understands.....listen.....let go..., sense that special peace...



Throughout this time Jesus journeyed with the disciples....

Reading: Luke 24:13-16 – Sue

“As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them.” (Luke 24:15)
Jesus hadn't abandoned them, even though they didn't recognise him.

*Have we ever felt abandoned by God, by Jesus?

*How did/does that feel?

***Prayer. Talk freely to Jesus about these “abandonment” times and things - he understands...**

As they journeyed, Jesus listened to and talked with the disciples, revealing himself through scripture – ***Pause for a moment, be with those disciples when “Jesus himself came up and walked along with them”. (v15)**

*When have you sensed Jesus walking with you, during these past months.

Reflect on a/several times....

* How did you feel? Comforted? Re-assured? Overwhelmed? At peace?

*When we realise that Jesus has been walking beside us all the time...even when we don't sense it...does my heart burn with love, joy and gratitude?

***Prayer - Talk to Jesus about those times, perhaps in thankfulness, praise, wonder.**

He walked with two of them, from Jerusalem to Emmaus, and **accepted their invitation to eat with them that evening.**

Reading – Luke 24:28-32



We are there, at supper, with Jesus as he takes bread, gives thanks and shares it with his disciples, with us....

***When I accept the gift of bread and wine at Holy Communion, are my eyes opened afresh each time to the unfathomable love of Jesus? *Does my heart burn with gratitude?**

Prayer – talk to God about all these ...

Today we too walk in a strange land, on new paths we have not walked before this year.....but our reassurance is

Reading: Luke 24:36



**Jesus himself stood amongst them.
And said to them “Peace be with you”**

Now and in the weeks and months ahead can we:

***pray for the desire for grace to take time to be present with Jesus as we receive his blessing of peace over us in these new times?**

*** on our journey, bring togetherness, hope in the dark places of our peoples and our communities lives?**

Where, when might there be new opportunities?

***ask God to guide our way in this....**

***as Jesus comforted, calmed and re-assured his disciples, can we bring comfort and peace to those we meet on our journeys?**

***ask God for the grace to grow our compassion for all whom we meet on our journey.**

But we can do nothing without God's help. When we find ourselves in bewildering, painful, even grieving times, when our words seem inadequate, we can pray, a "circling prayer" asking that God's unbroken love, peace and protection encircle us.



Let's pray...in the combined strength of our joined and private prayers.

For ourselves:

Circle me Lord, keep protection near and danger afar.

Circle me Lord, keep light near and darkness afar;

Circle me Lord, keep peace within and evil out.

For someone known to us:

Circle (person's name) Lord, keep peace within and turmoil out

Circle (person's name) Lord, keep comfort near and discouragement afar

Circle (person's name) Lord, keep hope within and despair without.

For our churches:

Circle us Lord, keep love within and hatred out,

Circle us Lord, keep forgiveness in and injury out,

Circle us Lord, keep faith within and doubt without;

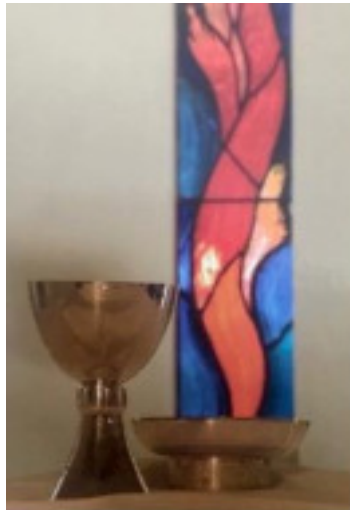
For our community, nation and world:

Circle us Lord, keep peace within and conflict without.

Circle us Lord, keep hope within and despair without.

Circle us Lord, keep justice within and tyranny without;

Circle us Lord, in your Sacred Trinity. Amen



**If you would like to join in, let us share anything we have heard from
God this evening...**

Closing Prayer