**The Brooke Benefice**

Resources for

Sunday Worship



Sunday 26th April : Easter Three

These resources are aimed at helping us to worship together on a Sunday during this time when we cannot meet as a congregation.

**Please try to make Sunday, our celebration of the resurrection, a day that is different from the rest of the week.**

Those living in the same household are encouraged to share worship together where possible.

A Sunday service will be broadcast on BBC Radio Norfolk at 8am, and other worship is being streamed on-line.

I will pray on behalf of all of us at 10.30am on Sunday morning.

**The Collect:**

Almighty Father,

who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples

with the sight of the risen Lord:

give us such knowledge of his presence with us,

that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life

and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Amen

**The Reading:**

Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’ They stood still, looking sad. 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?’ 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, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 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. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 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. 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.’ Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 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. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. 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?’ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**Ideas for Reflection:**

It was when Jesus explained to them the Bible stories that they knew so well, that these disciples felt their hearts begin to warm. They realised that the terrible events of the last few days were not the end, and that God had a plan to save the world. They were so enthralled by this idea that they invited their companion into their home to share their supper, where they were surprised to discover who he was!

**Think through some of the Bible stories you know and see if you can work out how they are clues to God’s plan to save the world through Jesus. How does that plan make you feel? Does it make you wish that you could know Jesus better? Why not invite him into your home today and share your life with him.**

**Ideas for Prayer:**

* Pray for those who do their work in Jesus name, that his love and care might be revealed through them.
* Pray for those who are beginning to feel isolated and cut off in their homes.
* Pray for those who, like the two disciples, feel that their lives have been changed for ever; that they may come to find some purpose in their situation, or grow to accept it.
* Pray for those in our Benefice who have family members who are unwell and are unable to go to them.
* Pray for those in our Benefice who have been bereaved this week; that they may be comforted by the resurrection message of Easter.
* Pray for people across the world who are suffering in body, mind or spirit because of the Coronavirus Pandemic; ask for God’s healing and for the courage and resilience needed to endure.

**Closing Prayer:**

We thank you, Lord God, that because of Easter our gospel is not least a gospel about the mystery of death as well as of life.

May those who face death at this time, and especially those who have watched it claim their loved ones, know that through Christ’s glorious resurrection death has lost its sting for ever.

He has opened the kingdom of heaven to all who believe in him. He has broken the power of death and brought life and immortality to life.

Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Amen