

Third Sunday of Easter + 26th April 2020

A simple liturgy for use during the Covid-19 Pandemic

*Today is also world 'Earth Day'- a day of mindfulness about our stewardship of the planet earth.
Light a candle. Sit for a few moments to gather your thoughts.*

Breathe deeply and slowly.

Gathering in God's Presence

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen Indeed!

Christ is with us on the journey,

Christ is with us at the table.

Christ is with us when we rest,

Christ is with us when we wake.

Christ is with us when we grieve,

Christ is with us when we rejoice.

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen Indeed!



*They knew him in the breaking
of the bread*

Prayer of Brokenness

Almighty One,

we come to You confessing our weariness, our unease, our struggle in this time.

There is so much that is unknown, so much to be afraid of.

We worry about illness, about death, about finances and education.

We worry about our future because we cannot plan for it, we cannot perceive it.

We confess to You that we are waiting for some sort of sign,
some sort of assurance, and this is difficult for us.

But we also confess that You are the Risen Christ.

You are with us on this journey,

even when we are not sure where we are going or for how long.

You are with us when we collapse with exhaustion, and when we rise because we must. You
remain faithful, even when we do not.

Guide us into a deeper faith - not one where we have the answers,
but one in which we have the assurance we are not alone,
and that You will see us through.

In Your name, Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

Reading: Luke 24:13-35

Luke's account of the Gospel is the only one that contains this revealing of Jesus to the two travellers on the road to Emmaus. The two travellers are called disciples but were not included among the twelve as one of them is named Cleopas. Some scholars believe that the second traveller, whose name and gender are not given, might have been a woman.

They travelled to Emmaus from Jerusalem, sad about the day's events when a stranger approached them and asked what they were talking about. Cleopas was dumbfounded that this stranger didn't know what happened, and he explained how Jesus of Nazareth was crucified. However, some of the women of their group had come back from the tomb that morning and shared that angels told them Jesus was alive. This stranger they encountered on the road explained the scripture from Moses on through the prophets about the Messiah, that the Messiah was to suffer and then be raised. When they reached the village, the stranger seemed to be moving on, but Cleopas and the other disciple urged the stranger to stay with them. As he broke bread before them, they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They went all the way back to Jerusalem to tell the disciples what they had seen, and learned that Peter had also seen the risen Christ.

Where is the Risen Christ being revealed to us, especially in this time of Covid-19?

Not among the large crowds and masses, but perhaps in our own homes as we break bread. Perhaps on our lonely walks in our sorrow and sadness. Perhaps in the act of recognizing our shared humanity, seeing each other across the street, or seeing those who are still in need sleeping outside. The Risen Christ is among us, perhaps where we'd least expect to find him.

Prayer

Creator of the Earth,
You formed us from the stardust of the universe's creation
and breathed into us spirit and life.
You gave us a world to care for.
As we commemorate Earth Day,
we are recognizing our sacred duty to be good stewards of the earth.
While the pandemic has forced us to slow down our planet's demise,
may we learn from this time how to better care
for the only planet You have given us to live upon.
May we be better caretakers of the earth's creatures and resources,
of all the life You have made.
Grant us wisdom on how we can live better and love Your creation. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing

In the times we think we are most alone, Christ is with us.
When we are most distraught, Christ is beside us.
When we are grieving, Christ is silently listening.
When we rejoice, Christ is celebrating with us.
Know that you are never truly alone.
Know that you are always loved.
Know that the hairs on your head are accounted for.
You are God's beloved.
Live with the assurance of God's steadfast love, now and always. Amen.