



St Mark's Church

Living Thinking Faith

Night service on Easter Sunday
March 31st 2013 at 8pm

Please ensure that you collect a candle at the start of this Service

Opening Prayer

Lord,
it is night.

The night is for stillness.

Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.

What has been done has been done;
what has not been done has not been done;
let it be.

The night is dark.

Let our fears of the darkness of the world
and of our own lives
rest in you.

The night is quiet.

Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us,
and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.

Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys,
new possibilities.

In your name we pray.

Amen.

Reading

The Emmaus Road – Luke 24

Silence / music

Poem

As we walked home at close of day,
a stranger joined us on our way.
He heard us speak of one who'd gone
and when we stopped, he carried on.

“Why wander further without light?
Please stay with us this troubled night.
We've shared the truth of how we feel
and now we'd like to share a meal.”

We sat to eat our simple spread,
then watched the stranger take the bread;
and, as he said the blessing prayer,
we knew that someone else was there.

No stranger he; it was our eyes
which failed to see, in stranger's guise,
the Lord who, risen from the dead,
met us when ready to be fed.

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

As Mary and our sisters said,
the Lord is risen from the dead.

Prayer

Jesus Christ, you meet us;
your hands still holed,
but your breath warm,
and your conversation engaging.
Death has not changed your accent
or diminished your love.

And though the world
still shows signs of its imperfection,
the good news is that you have destined it
and all its people to be made whole.

**So, as we are gathered in your house
on this Easter evening
and cheered by your Gospel;
join us, as you joined your first disciples
and make our worship
your Emmaus Road**

Song

The first four lines of each verse will be sung as a solo, please join in with the last four lines.

Now the green blade riseth
from the buried grain,
wheat that in the dark earth
many days has lain;
**Love lives again,
that with the dead has been:
Love is come again,
like wheat that springeth green.**

In the grave they laid him,
Love by hatred slain,
thinking that never
he would wake again,
**laid in the earth
like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again,
like wheat that springeth green.**

Forth he came at Easter,
like the risen grain,
he that for three days
in the grave had lain;
**quick from the dead,
my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again,
like wheat that springeth green.**

When our hearts are wintry,
grieving or in pain,
thy touch can call us
back to life again;
**fields of our hearts,
that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again,
like wheat that springeth green.**

Lighting the candles

A candle is lit from the Pascal candle and placed on the table. You are invited to come forward and light your candle from it as a sign of commitment to following Christ's way of life. Please also take a piece of hot cross bun as a reminder that Christ is our constant companion. (Com-panion = with bread)



We have received the light of Christ;
may we walk in this light all the days of our life.

**May God kindle in you
the flame of faith
the fire of love
and the torch of truth. Amen.**

Prayers

**May the light of Christ
illumine our hearts and minds.**

Dear God,
thank you for all that is good,
for our creation and our humanity,
for the stewardship you have given us of this planet earth,
for the gifts of life and of one another,
for your love which is unbounded and eternal.

O thou, most holy and beloved,
my Companion, my Guide upon the way
my bright evening star.

**May the light of Christ
illumine our hearts and minds.**

Eternal Spirit, living God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you,
to the very secret of our hearts
and all that rises to trouble us.

**May the light of Christ
illumine our hearts and minds.**

Living flame, burn into us,
cleansing wind, blow through us,
fountain of water, well up within us,
that we may love and praise in deed and in truth.

**May the light of Christ
illumine our hearts and minds.**

The risen Christ is in our midst, so with Christ we pray.

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

Dismissal

O God of mercy,
grant us, with all your people,
rest and peace.

The divine Spirit dwells in us.
Thanks be to God.

‘He has been raised; he is not here.’ (Mark 16)

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.

A CLARE BENEDICTION (by John Rutter)

May the Lord show his mercy upon you;
may the light of his presence be your guide:
 may he guard you and uphold you;
 may his spirit be ever by your side.
When you sleep, may his angels watch over you;
when you wake, may he fill you with his grace:
 may you love him and serve him all your days,
 Then in heaven may you see his face.