

## Weekly Theme

W/C 1st May 2017



### "Telling our Story"

#### Luke 24:13-35

That same day two of Jesus' followers were going to a town named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking about everything that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and began walking with them, but they were kept from recognizing him. Then he said, "What are these things you are talking about while you walk?"

The two followers stopped, looking very sad. The one named Cleopas answered, "Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who does not know what just happened there?"

Jesus said to them, "What are you talking about?"

They said, "About Jesus of Nazareth. He was a prophet who said and did many powerful things before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup> Our leaders and the leading priests handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. But we were hoping that he would free Israel. Besides this, it is now the third day since this happened. And today some women among us amazed us. Early this morning they went to the tomb, but they did not find his body there. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels who said that Jesus was alive! So some of our group went to the tomb, too. They found it just as the women said, but they did not see Jesus."

Then Jesus said to them, "You are foolish and slow to believe everything the prophets said. They said that the Christ must suffer these things before he enters his glory." Then starting with what Moses and all the prophets had said about him, Jesus began to explain everything that had been written about himself in the Scriptures.

They came near the town of Emmaus, and Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they begged him, "Stay with us, because it is late; it is almost night." So he went in to stay with them.

When Jesus was at the table with them, he took some bread, gave thanks, divided it, and gave it to them. And then, they were allowed to recognize Jesus. But when they saw who he was, he disappeared. They said to each other, "It felt like a fire burning in us when Jesus talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us."

So the two followers got up at once and went back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven apostles and others gathered. They were saying, "The Lord really has risen from the dead! He showed himself to Simon."

Then the two followers told what had happened on the road and how they recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

The story of the road to Emmaus is a familiar one. Jesus accompanies the disciples on their journey, even though they don't recognise him. He guides them and teaches them and helps them to understand all that has happened.

He sits and he shares a meal with them and only at this point do they recognise who they have been with. Their eyes were opened and they recognised him.

How often do we go through life with our eyes closed?

It is not always easy to recognise God's presence in our lives. But God is there in all those who walk alongside us. The people

who have brought us a light in the darkest times, those who have strengthened our faith by their presence.

But God is also present in all those we reach out to. So let us think today about how we can walk alongside others on their journey, and open our eyes to recognise the hungry body of Christ in our midst.

**Christ Jesus, open our hearts to the wonder of your presence in our lives. Open our eyes to recognise you in each person and to walk alongside those among us in need.**

**Amen.**