

Bible reading Luke 24:13-35

Hymn 141- Singing-The Faith-*Abide with me*

Luke 24: 13-35

The Walk to Emmaus

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.

New Revised Standard Version

Reflection

Third week after Easter and the reading reminds me of Whitney Houston's song "Where do broken hearts go, do they find their way home?". Yes, they do find their way home. Cleopas and his friend are finding their way home with broken hearts. The lyrics replayed in my mind as I was walking the journey with Cleopas and his colleague. They are walking away from Jerusalem where their hearts were broken by the death of Christ whom they thought was their earthly King to liberate them from the Roman bondage. They are deep in discussion walking back home on what I am calling "The disappointment Road to Emmaus". They are asking questions and wondering what really went wrong. Their expectations were not met and hopes shattered. They had been to Jerusalem and witnessed the death of their "King". As we are reading does this text not remind us of times we were let down, times we lost our loved ones, times our expectations were not met, our hopes shattered? Times we just wanted to walk away from situations that broke our hearts and go home-a place of comfort, healing and consolation. We have our own Jerusalems and Emmauses in life. Jerusalem is a place of sorrow, suffering and pain. A place of discomfort. Emmaus is a place you just want to be away from the unpleasant situation. We are currently going

through strange and difficult times and may be walking "The disappointment Road" asking questions but Jesus is beside us. Asking us what happened. We should not be blinded by our situations not to recognise the presence of Christ. Let Christ open our eyes and see his presence at times as this. For he is the only one who can abide with us at all times. Where do broken hearts go? They go to Jesus. Hallelujah! 🙏🙏

Prayer

Heavenly father at a time as this, open the eyes of our hearts so that we may see you and hear you amidst our distress. We feel helpless and hopeless as the two men walking to Emmaus leaving Jerusalem behind. Help us Lord to see you when faced with challenges and difficult. We pray for all who lost their loved ones at a time as this. AMEN 🙏🙏

*Prepared by **Rev Mary Sachikonye Methodist Minister for (Mile Cross, Costessey, Trinity Thorpe Marriott, Hosford and Drayton) for a time as this. We are a church without walls. We should therefore, continue to proclaim the good news. I will be sending **Words of Hope** every week so that we may continue to nourish our spirits and continue to live in HOPE!***