

Worship at Home with the Rev Kate Bottley on the Third Sunday of Easter

SONG:

Here I am to worship

Sung by Katie Ritson

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness
opened my eyes, let me see
beauty that made this heart adore you
hope of a life spent with you

Here I am to worship
here I am to bow down
here I am to say that
you're my God

You're altogether lovely
altogether worthy
altogether wonderful to me

And I'll never know
how much it cost
to see my sin
upon that cross

And I'll never know
how much it cost
to see my sin
upon that cross

Here I am to worship
here I am to bow down
here I am to say that
you're my God

You're altogether lovely
altogether worthy
altogether wonderful to me.

*Words: Tim Hughes
Music: Here I am to worship, by Tim Hughes*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

This is the day that the Lord has made.
All Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

INTRODUCTION

Rev Kate Bottley

Hello, my name is the Rev Kate Bottley, and welcome to this service from my home, you're especially welcome if this is your first time worshipping with us in this way. I encourage you to join in with the prayers, songs and responses. All the component parts of today's act of worship have been recorded separately and edited together. I am really thankful to everyone involved in creating today's service.

Today's reading from the Gospel is the story of two disciples on the road to Emmaus, a journey which begins deep in sadness and disappointment and ends with the realisation that they are in the presence of the risen Lord. It's a story that's especially significant for us this Eastertide. We are, as a nation and in our communities, conscious of the challenges and problems in the world at the moment, and the joy of the risen Christ can often feel far away.

HYMN

Alleluia, Alleluia hearts to heaven and voices raise

Sung by the St Martin-in-the-Fields Choral Scholars, recorded at home this week

Alleluia, Alleluia,
hearts to heaven and voices raise;
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise:
he who on the Cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,
now is risen from the dead.

Christ is risen, we are risen;
shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain, and dew, and gleams of glory
from the brightness of thy face;
that we, Lord with hearts in heaven,
here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel-hands be gathered,
and be ever safe with thee.

Alleluia, Alleluia
glory be to God on high;
to the Father and the Saviour
who has gained the victory;
glory to the Holy Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia, Alleluia
to the Triune Majesty.

*Words: C. Wordsworth
Music: Lux Eoi by Arthur Sullivan*

We're sometimes like the disciples on the road to Emmaus. We don't always recognise the work of God in our lives, or the face of Christ in the faces of the people that we journey with.

So let's take a moment to come to God, who knows the secrets of our hearts, to ask for forgiveness and peace, a moment of silence.

Silence is kept.

Jesus Christ, risen master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us.

All **Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us.

All **Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us.

All **Lord, hear us and help us.**

So may almighty God,
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring you his pardon and his peace, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Our first reading, from Acts, tells the story of a moment of realisation, when Peter proclaimed to the people of Jerusalem that Jesus was the Messiah.

FIRST READING

Read by Cathy Braganza

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say'.

Therefore, let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptised, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

SONG

Psalm 116 (Turned My Soul to Rest)

Sung by Katie Ritson

From my dying
from my shame
you heard my calling
you called my name
from the darkness
from the grave
O, I cried out to you
and you came to save me

In your kindness
In your grace
by such mercy
you have saved me
For your glory
for your name

for your kingdom
you came to save me
O, you saved me

I will dwell in the shadow of your mercy
I will walk in the land of those who live
I'll raise up the cup of your salvation
you turned my soul to rest
you turned my soul to rest

I love you Lord
for you alone
can hear my cry
can hear my cry

You hear my voice
and only you
can give me life
can give me life

I will dwell in you
I will walk with you
I'll raise up the cup of your salvation
you turned my soul to rest
you turned my soul to rest

*Words: Robbie Seay & Benji Cowart
Tune: Turned my soul to rest, by Robbie Seay & Benji Cowart*

THE GOSPEL

Luke: 24: 13-35

Read by Chris Braganza

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, 'All who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

All **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 recognising 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 recognised 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Chine McDonald

Head of PR and Media at Christian Aid

ANTHEM

Walk softly, By Bob Chilcott

Sung by St Martin's Voices

*When we assemble here to worship God,
To sing His praises and hear His word
We will walk softly.*

*With purity of heart; and with clean hands,
Our souls are free, we're free from Satan's bands
We will walk softly.*

*While we are passing thro' the sacred door
Into the fold where Christ has gone before,
We will walk softly.*

*We'll worship and bow down we will rejoice
And when we hear the shepherd's gentle voice
We will walk softly.*

*Softly
Softly
We will walk softly.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe.
Amen.

PRAYERS

Led by Carolyn Denmark, St Barnabas Parish Church, Swindon

Let us pray.

Father God, we stand in awe at the fact that you are always with us, showing your constant love in these difficult and distressing times. When so many people have suffered and died. Even those known to us, amongst our families and friends. We look to you our God, trusting you to shine your light on us, in our grief and hardship. We trust you to guide us at this time and to bring healing to those who are sick and comfort to those who mourn.

We also pray that as we reach out to others to comfort and support them, whether with them physically or apart, that you will bring comfort to us, and uphold us. Let your light shine through the turmoil of our confusion and bring us the love and hope we can share with the world, that is so in need of your hope right now. Thank you that in our difficulties we can turn to you and know you. And thank you too that you give us the task to bless your world, with support and compassion.

Amen.

Almighty and merciful father you show your great love for all you that have created in your world. We pray now for your swift help and for your sovereign power to overcome the spread of the coronavirus causing so much sickness and death to your world. We pray for that world and all who are affected in so many different ways. Bring healing to those who suffer, bring life to the dying, and comfort those who have been bereaved. We pray for all who are working to find solutions to the pandemic, that they will soon be successful, and we ask that you strengthen and uphold our government, scientists, and health authorities in their fight. Empower them with your wisdom, your strength and your grace to overcome.

Amen.

Now we pray for my community, for the deaf community. Deaf people in the country are often isolated, and within that community there are particularly vulnerable people; the elderly, the deaf-blind and deaf people with mental health issues. Many live in worry and confusion, because they have little access to good information, even the most basic government information; to stay home, and only go out when absolutely necessary has passed them by. And we think of those who continue to help and support the community, going to work with the fear that they may catch the virus, or pass it on to someone else. We pray for families where there are deaf children, and where there may be communication difficulties between family members, leading to frustrations. We pray for volunteers and key workers, to support our community working together to uphold it. We pray for all of us, for the deaf community, for an outpouring of your grace, your comfort, your strength, and your wisdom as we work together to beat back the effects of the virus.

Amen.

THE COLLECT

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

All Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All 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 sins 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.

THE BLESSING

Rev Kate Bottley

Thank you for joining us for today's service. All that's left for me to do is to pray God's blessing over all of us.

The Lord bless you and watch over you,
the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you,
the Lord look kindly on you
and give you peace;
and the blessing of God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and always.

All Amen.

MUSIC

Go forth into the world in peace, by John Rutter

Sung by the Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Go forth into the world in peace

Be of good courage

Be of good courage

Go forth into the world in peace

Be of good courage

Be of good courage

Hold fast that which is good

Render to no one evil for evil

Strengthen the fainthearted

Support the weak

Help the afflicted

Honour all people

Love and serve the Lord

Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit

And the blessing of God almighty

The father, the Son and the Holy Ghost

Be among you and remain with you forever

Amen, Amen.

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