



**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021**  
**The Third Sunday of Easter**

Dear friends,

If you have the Internet, you will find a video to accompany this sheet on YouTube from Sunday morning – search for Isle of Man Methodist Church and you will find it on our YouTube channel.

Our prayers are with you all,

Isle of Man Methodist Staff Team.

### **Welcome**

### **Call to Worship**

Jesus says, 'Come to me,  
all you who are weary and burdened  
and I will give you rest.'  
In worship, let us come to the one who offers peace  
and rest. **Amen.**

### **Hymn (StF 314): This Joyful Eastertide** *Sing/ Read /pray / the words below*

1 This joyful Eastertide,  
what need is there for grieving?  
Cast all your cares aside  
and be not unbelieving:

*Come, share our Easter joy*

*that death could not imprison,  
nor any power destroy,  
our Christ, who is arisen!*

2 No work for him is vain,  
no faith in him mistaken,  
for Easter makes it plain  
his kingdom is not shaken:

3 Then put your trust in Christ,  
in waking and in sleeping.  
His grace on earth sufficed;  
he'll never quit his keeping:  
Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

### **Prayer of Approach**

Stepping into the turmoil of life,  
You bring peace,  
Risen presence.  
Your calm voice chases away the darkness and  
distress  
of doubt and fear,  
bringing new light and insight  
to life and death.  
In an upper room,  
You make the extraordinary experience of  
resurrection  
an everyday encounter,  
and in the passage of all living things  
through birth, growth and death,  
we notice the possibility of new beginnings.  
Your words of peace still our hurry.  
Your story is to be savoured,  
to fill imaginations,  
to dream of what is possible.  
In the peace Your passion for creation is revealed,  
as Your love heals the division humanity creates  
between one another,  
amidst the world around,  
between heaven and earth.

With Your woundedness  
we are made whole,  
and prepared to be the witnesses  
of Christ's continuing purpose in our time.  
Amen.

### **Readings: Psalm 4 and Luke 24: 13-48**

### **A time of reflection**

The two disciples in the Emmaus story fail to recognise Jesus on the road. In verse 36, it tells us that 'they thought they were seeing a ghost and were scared half to death!' Jesus calms them by saying: 'Peace be with you' and shows them his hands and his feet – the absolute proof that this was indeed Jesus. How often in our trials and tribulations do we doubt Jesus? We are sometimes blind to see where Jesus is at work in our lives. We experience difficulties in life and sometimes, the darkness overcomes the light, leaving us feeling like we are grasping at the very last straws of our faith, desperately looking for a sign that Jesus is in the midst of the situation.

But if we look around us, can we see Jesus in the everyday? Is Jesus found in the words of another, in the care of the doctor, in the laughter of a child, in the love of a parent? Could this be Jesus?

The disciples had been on a rough road. They had seen their friend tortured, crucified, and cast out. They had been blinded by grief and loss and then against all odds, Jesus returns to them and reveals that all this sorrow is a fulfilling of the Hebrew scriptures. They are comforted by the fact that Jesus shows them something familiar, the breaking of bread, something tangible that they could experience. The fact the disciples had seen the resurrected Jesus transforms them from disciples to witnesses. They are a part of the story of God in human history, laid out in the Hebrew scriptures and they are then called to tell others. It is through this revealing that their faith becomes strengthened, and we can take that fulfilling of the Hebrew scripture through their experience to be truth for us. We might not be able to see Jesus in the physical, human sense that his disciples did, but we can see and experience

Jesus in the reading of scripture and increase our faith knowing that the scriptures have been fulfilled and ultimately find the strength and peace in our lives because of this.

It is a Good News story - Jesus rises from the grave victorious to take away all those wounds which we have experienced by this gift of new life. Whatever trails you are experiencing today, remember that Jesus is walking with you on the road, just like he did with the disciples, and meets with you to take away your fear and doubts through revealing his love for you through scripture, prayer and in the sharing of communion. The psalm we read today ends with these words of comfort: 'In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, O lord, will keep me safe.' I pray that you might know that peace and reassurance today and that you might continue on the road, trusting, witnessing and strengthening your faith each day.

### **Hymn (H&P 683): My Faith Looks Up To Thee**

*Sing/ Read /pray / the words below*

- 1 My faith looks up to thee,  
Thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Saviour divine:  
Now hear me while I pray;  
Take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day  
Be wholly thine!
- 2 While life's dark maze I tread,  
And griefs around me spread,  
Be thou my guide;  
Bid darkness turn to day,  
Wipe sorrow's tears away,  
Nor let me ever stray  
From thee aside.
- 3 May thy rich grace impart  
Strength to my fainting heart,  
My zeal inspire;

As thou hast died for me,  
O may my love for thee  
Pure, warm, and changeless be,  
A living fire.  
*Ray Palmer (1808 – 87)*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Risen Christ, Your living presence is celebrated at city gates and market squares, by those in need of healing and those who are amazed, in heart and minds.

In moments of wonder and unexpected changes, our senses are disrupted by the extraordinary, so that suddenly we see You standing in our midst speaking words of peace and inspiring Your world to discover the possibility of the kingdom of heaven in the ordinary of the world.

Help us to enjoy our moments of wonder. In a world where explanation and logic could chip away at faith, may we marvel at the growing knowledge of science, and the wonder it creates from starlit skies, to molecules and atoms, giving intimate knowledge of a creation so full of opportunities to delve into discovering more of God.

Thrill us with the mystery of what we are yet to know so that it expands our desire to notice You in unexpected ways and places.

In this journey through a pandemic, we give thanks for all those who have offered signs of resurrection in their work and commitments.

We pray for doctors, nurses and support staff who tirelessly care for those who enter their view, at times with potential harm to themselves.

We pray for the scientific community as it continues research and development in care and prevention. We pray for those who are the recipients of care and notice the wide range of people whose health has been affected by being unable to receive treatment and support.

Help us to recognise that while the virus has world-wide impact, we are not equal in immunisation programmes. Help us to notice those communities who will be the last to receive the support they need and to work towards the fairer share of wealth and resource, so that Your risen Presence reveals the kingdom in every land.

Christ of life and death and resurrection, we celebrate those who have shared this life with us, allowing us to meet you in simple words and actions. We grieve with those who mourn the death of loved ones. May we be those who share the memories and love that allows hope to rise from loss. In the name of Jesus Christ, Your risen One.  
Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
On earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
The power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever. **Amen.**



### **Blessing**

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Peace be with you' – they responded with turmoil. Jesus said, 'Have you anything to eat?' – they served him fish. Jesus opened their minds – they became his witnesses. So, Lord, may we too find peace in your service, with opened minds and hearts on fire. **Amen.**