**26th April 2020**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

**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.

**Gospel:**

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. *(Luke 24:13-35)*

**Making Meaning:**

A grand double-bill for you this week – a musical interpretation of this week’s Gospel from the Iona Community, sung by yours truly… followed by a reflection and prayer from our Archdeacon, Julie Conalty… with thanks to Steve Davis for filming, editing and splicing: <https://youtu.be/ufWnLqEUPbY>

**Song Lyrics:**

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 would 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:**

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.

**Amen.**