

WHY ARE WE HERE? TO GIVE AND NOT COUNT THE COST

Mark 14: 1 – 11

7th March 2021



Bowthorpe
Church

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus invites us to a way of celebration,
meeting and feasting with the humble
and poor.

Let us walk his way with joy.



Jesus beckons us to a way of risk,
letting go of our security.

Let us walk his way with joy.

Jesus challenges us to listen to the
voices of those who have nothing to
lose.

Let us walk his way with joy.

Jesus calls us to follow the way of the cross, where despair is transformed by the promise of new life.

Let us walk his way with joy.

OPENING PRAYER AND CONFESSION

O God, we have come together to turn to you as your people. We come with Christians all over the world and across the centuries. We bring everything we are, all our gifts and talents, all that we



do well and for good. We bring our weakness and our sorrow and every way in which we fail. We come in the hope and expectation that we shall find you here as we worship you, as the Scriptures are read and interpreted and as the music and words touch our spirits.

We pray that as we learn to follow Jesus, your Son, we may be saved from all that harms us, that we may become the people you made us to be and that we may find strength to do good in the world so that your will may be done.

God the Creator, we praise you.
God in Christ, we turn to you.
God the Comforter, we call upon you.

O God of justice, we have heard your commandments and they are a gift to us. Yet we have failed to live by them. For this we are sorry and we turn to you for forgiveness. We have not loved you wholeheartedly. We have failed in love to



our neighbours and to ourselves. We have not loved our enemies or blessed those who do us harm. We live in an unjust world, where many are hungry, and there is little peace.

Lord have mercy upon us.

O God, your heart is full of mercy. May we heard your words to each of us:
‘Your sins are forgiven.’ May we forgive each other and forgive ourselves.

Amen.

A colorful kite with a red and white polka-dot top section, a blue and green striped middle section, and a yellow and orange bottom section, flying in a clear blue sky with scattered white clouds. The kite is attached to a thin white string that extends from the bottom left towards the top right.

LORD, I COME TO YOU

JESUS LOVER OF MY SOUL



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READING: MARK 14: 1 - 11

Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. 2 'But not during the festival,' they said 'or the



people may riot.'

3 While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.



4 Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, 'Why this waste of perfume? 5 It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor.' And they rebuked her harshly. 6 'Leave her alone,' said Jesus. 'Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me.'



7 The poor you will always have with you,
and you can help them any time you
want. But you will not always have me. 8
She did what she could. She poured
perfume on my body beforehand to
prepare for my burial. 9 Truly I tell you,
wherever the gospel is preached
throughout the world, what she has done



will also be told, in memory of her.’

10 Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. 11 They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.



This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

REFLECTION:

WHY ARE WE HERE?

**TO GIVE AND NOT TO COUNT
THE COST**



**Bowthorpe
Church**

PRAYER AFTER REFLECTION

“Lord, teach me to be generous;
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;
To give and not to count the cost;
To fight and not to heed the wounds;
To toil, and not to seek for rest;
To labour, and not to ask for reward -
except to know that I am doing your will.” Amen.

(St. Ignatius of Loyola)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Generous God, we bring our gifts to you with cheerfulness and love. With these gifts we also offer ourselves, all we have and all we are, for your glory's sake. Amen.



I WILL OFFER UP MY LIFE



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INTERCESSIONS

Extravagant God, we pray for all the women in the world who are considered unknown and insignificant by others, those unknown to us who live in a world where others decide the rightness of their actions and the motives of their heart.



We pray for women's refuges which seek to bring safety to vulnerable women.

Generous Lord

Let our prayers be answered



Extravagant God, we pray for all the political and religious leaders who consider their own actions and motives to be right without reflecting on their own use or misuse of power. We pray for the government that it would consider the least and the last and not just put their own personal interests

before the needs of the vulnerable and
the poorest.

Generous Lord

Let our prayers be answered

Extravagant God, we pray for the church,
those who follow Jesus and call him Lord.
Help us not to be quick to condemn
others for their offering of pure
devotion, even when it is different from
ours. We pray for those who have given
and not counted the cost, especially for
our brothers and sisters in Christ who



have been imprisoned for their faith or who have paid the ultimate price by giving up their lives for you. We also pray for Muslims in Bangladesh who have turned to you and call you now their Saviour and Lord and attend Jesus mosques. We pray for their safety and growth in faith, and their witness to others in faith, and their



witness to others of your extravagant love and mercy. We also pray for Robert and Roger in hospital and Azaria now at home, for your healing power to touch their lives.

Generous Lord

Let our prayers be answered



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Finally, we give thanks for all those who have departed this life in your faith and love, who have left the travails of this world behind. We pray for those grieving on earth, that they may turn to you, Lord of Eternity, and find in your Son Jesus extravagant mercy, comfort and love.



Generous Lord

Let our prayers be answered

All these things we pray in the name of
the one who journeyed to the cross for
our sake, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 sin
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.**



ALL I HAVE AND ALL I AM



CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

Generous God, we now give ourselves to you this coming week, wherever we are, that our love for you may have an impact on others that they may seek you and live.

Amen.



And now may the blessing of God
Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy
Spirit be with you and with all whom you
love, now and for evermore.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

