

### WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP:

“The time is coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah... I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people” (Jeremiah 31:31, 33b).

### SONGS:

- **Saviour He can move the mountains – My God is mighty to save**
- **This Grace is mine**
- **Here I am waiting (eagles wings)**

### OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray:

Glory to the God of Love, you created us; you continually preserve and sustain us; you love us with an everlasting love you give us the light of the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

Blessèd be God for ever.

**Blessèd be God for ever.**

Glory to you, Lord Jesus, You were rich, but became poor for our sake, you were tempted as we are, yet without sin, you preached the good news of the kingdom and were obedient to death, even death on a cross. You were raised from death and are alive forever. You sit at God’s right hand in glory and will come again to judge us.

Blessèd be God for ever

**Blessèd be God for ever**

Glory to you, Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life. By you we are born into the family of God and made members of the body of Christ. Your witness confirms us; your wisdom teaches us; your power enables us. You will do for us more than we can ask or think.

Blessèd be God for ever

**Blessèd be God for ever.**

To the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be praise and glory for ever. **Amen.**

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, hear us as we confess our sins. You showed us how to live in the life of Jesus. We confess that we have been slow to learn from him, failed to follow him and showed our reluctance to carry the cross.

Lord have mercy.

**Lord forgive.**

We confess the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship and the means of grace, our evasion of responsibilities in your service and our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.

Lord have mercy.

**Lord forgive.**

Have mercy upon us, O God, through your constant love. In the fulness of your mercy, blot out our offences. Wash away all our guilt and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a new heart and renew a right spirit within us. **Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, to all who truly repent this is his gracious word: “Your sins are forgiven.” **Amen**

### THE COVENANT

God made a covenant with the people of Israel, calling them to be a holy nation, chosen to bear witness to his steadfast love by finding delight in the law.

The covenant was renewed in Jesus Christ our Lord, in his life, work, death and resurrection. In him all people may be set free from sin and its power, and united in love and obedience.

In this covenant God promises us new life in Christ. For our part we promise to live no longer for ourselves but for God.

We meet today, as generations before us have done, to renew the covenant which bound them and binds us to God.

### THE PROMISE

Sisters and brothers in Christ, let us again accept our place within this covenant which God has made with us and with all who are called to be Christ’s disciples.

This means that, by the help of the Holy Spirit, we accept God’s purpose for us, and the call to love and serve God in all our life and work.

Christ has many services to be done: some are easy, others are difficult; some bring honour, others bring reproach; some are suitable to our natural inclinations and material interests, others are contrary to both; in some we may please Christ and please ourselves; in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ, who strengthens us.

Therefore, let us make this covenant of God our own. Let us give ourselves to him, trusting in his promises and relying on his grace.

Eternal God, in your faithful and enduring love you call us to share in your gracious covenant in Jesus Christ. In obedience we hear and accept your commands; in love we seek to do your perfect will; with joy we offer ourselves anew to you. We are no longer our own but yours.

**I am no longer my own but yours. Your will, not mine, be done in all things, wherever you may place me, in all that I do and in all that I may endure; when there is work for me and when there is none; when I am troubled and when I am at peace. Your will be done when I am valued and when I am disregarded; when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking; when I have all things, and when I have nothing. I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you, as and where you choose.**

**Glorious and Blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. May it be so for ever. Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.**

We have entered into this covenant not for ourselves alone but as God's servants and witnesses. Let us walk in the way of Jesus now and always.

**NOTICES:**

Twin Oaks service – Monday 15 September, 11am

Church Meeting – Sunday 21 September after the service

Funeral of Raymond Horwell – Monday 22 September, 11am Earlham Crematorium and cemetery

Maintenance morning – Saturday 27 September, 9.30am – 12.30pm

**OFFERTORY SONG:**

- **We are walking in the light of God**

**OFFERTORY**

Gracious Lord, when you gave your life on the cross, you brought about the new covenant. As you gave yourself for us, so now we give ourselves to you, along with these gifts, that our lives and all we have may speak of all you have done for us; for your glory's sake. **Amen.**

**READING: Luke 24:13-35 –**

13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; 16 but they were kept from recognizing him.

17 He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. 18 One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

19 "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. 20 The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; 21 but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. 22 In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning 23 but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. 24 Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory? 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. 29 But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. 32 They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together 34 and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” 35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **REFLECTION: Walking with Jesus**

Well, it is good to be back among you after my sabbatical. One of the things I did during my sabbatical was to walk the Norfolk Coastal Path, all 84 miles of it. And out of that experience I want to reflect on walking with Jesus in the light of what I saw along the coastal path. And so, our theme for today is walking with Jesus. When I planned to walk the coastal path, I had to decide my starting point. I chose to start in Hunstanton and walk eastwards, as I thought I'd be more likely to have the wind at my back. Our starting point today for this reflection is where we are in our lives. We may have been walking with Jesus many years, or we may not yet have started that journey and we are here simply because we are curious about the Christian faith. There will be a whole variety of reasons why each of us are here. But we are here and this is our starting point, to meet with Jesus. We are going to look at the story of two disciples on the road to Emmaus on the day of Jesus' resurrection. Tom Wright says of this passage that it is 'a model for a great deal of what being a Christian, from that day to this, is all about' (Luke for everyone). So, let's turn to Luke 24:13-35. Read v13-16.

We see here two disciples, Cleopas and another not named, although some scholars think it was Cleopas' wife, named Mary. They are walking away from Jerusalem with the sadness of hopes dashed, expectations squashed, and now an uncertain future. Even though it was the day of Jesus' resurrection, they only heard rumours of this, but they were about to meet the risen Lord. They had hoped Jesus would redeem Israel, but his enemies crucified him. Ironically that is how he *did* redeem Israel, but the two disciples don't know that yet. Just as they didn't recognise Jesus when he came alongside them, neither did they recognise God's action of redemption at the cross and empty tomb.

The encounter with Jesus on the road to Emmaus is not just about the two disciples back then. It is also about us now. Just as Jesus walked alongside the disciples in the first century on the day of his resurrection, so we find Jesus joining us on our journey through life here in the twenty-first century. Just as Jesus walked and talked with them, so he walks and talks

with us, asking questions of us, patiently answering our questions and calming our fears. Here as we share bread and wine (as we will do later), we too can meet with the risen Lord and be touched by his very presence.

These two disciples were already followers of Jesus, but they were despondent having witnessed him being crucified. They were walking away from Jerusalem, despite hearing the women telling them that Jesus is alive. Are you tempted to walk away from Jesus because life is difficult and painful? Ask Jesus to walk with you and come alongside you once again. Also, if you haven't even made a commitment to follow Jesus, ask him into your life, ask him to walk with you, to reach out to you. There is a reason why you are here today. Jesus wants you to know him, and to know the hope of resurrection and new life. So, ask Jesus to walk with you, and to change you and give you hope. Maybe that's your starting point today.

In the encounter with Jesus on the road to Emmaus, we can see five ways Jesus reaches out to the two despondent disciples. Firstly, this encounter was conversational. The two disciples were discussing all that had happened to Jesus when Jesus entered their conversation (v14). Imagine you were also in the story. What would you be talking about as you walked along?

Secondly, this encounter was exegetical. What I mean by that is that Jesus explained how all the Scriptures point to him (v27). When was the last time you picked up the Bible and studied it? While I was on sabbatical, I watched a number of YouTube clips about conversations with those who object to the Christian faith. One thing I learned from these is that I need to know the Bible even better, more thoroughly. I need to take more time reading the Bible. Do you too?

Thirdly, this encounter was sacramental. Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them (v30). We are going to do that today. As we do that, why not ask Jesus to meet with you? It was in the act of breaking the bread that their eyes were opened. Your eyes can be opened too.

Fourthly, this encounter was prophetic. Their eyes were opened and they understood how all the Old Testament is a signpost to Jesus (v31). For example, Jesus is the Passover lamb who was sacrificed for us. Are you allowing God's word to open your eyes to the truth of Jesus. Recently I read about Nabeel Qureshi, a Muslim seeking the truth of God. The Lord spoke to Nabeel in a dream, and he became a Christian. His encounter with Jesus in the dream was prophetic. God is speaking to many Muslims in dreams and visions. We need to pray for more of this to happen as many Muslims are hungry to know God.

Finally, this encounter was inward. Their hearts burned within them while Jesus talked to them (v32). The fire of God's truth gave life and hope to them. Have you ever had such an experience, where your heart burned within you?

Now there are many other ways in which God speaks, but we see these five here in this story of two disciples walking home. Although this encounter on the road to Emmaus

included the Scriptures being opened, the breaking of bread, open eyes and burning hearts, the key factor in this encounter was meeting Jesus himself. On the road to Emmaus, Jesus didn't send a teacher with a Bible, or an angel with a message, or a priest with bread and wine. Jesus appeared himself. We understand the Bible in the light of Christ. He is God's communication to us. Jesus is God's Word to us, and through the pages of the Bible, we meet him. It's all about Jesus.

As I was considering what message to bring this Sunday, I had in mind that we need to be reminded of the direction we are to travel as a church. If the Christian life is a journey, it is a journey towards Jesus, following in his footsteps, walking in his ways, walking with Jesus. We are to walk the walk. When I walked the coastal path, I much preferred walking on solid ground rather than the times when I walked on shingle or on sand or high up on unstable cliffs. Walking the way of Jesus provides solid ground for us to live our lives. Just as I had a destination for each leg of my journey, so we are to be clear about where we are heading and our route to get there.

Just as this is true for us personally, it is also true for us as a church family. This church's life has to be orientated around following Jesus. Just as getting to Hopton from Hunstanton was my goal, so Jesus is our goal, our focus, our companion on the journey. And you know what else, the two disciples were invigorated by their encounter with the risen Lord Jesus, and walked all the way back to Jerusalem straight away to tell the others that they had met the risen Lord.

So, if you are weary, or hurting, or need to be refreshed in your faith, let me pray for you to have a fresh encounter with the risen Lord.

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

#### **SONG:**

- **We'll walk the land, with hearts on fire**

#### **THE PEACE**

The Lord has made an everlasting covenant of peace with his people.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

#### **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Jesus said to Nicodemus "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him" and "those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God." Our God is a God of second chances and new opportunities, let us celebrate his grace and bounty to us.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you, the true and living God. Endless is your mercy and eternal is your reign. All creation rejoices in your radiant splendour. You made a covenant with your people and declared your purpose of justice and love.

When all things were ready, you sent your Son to be our Saviour. In words and deeds, he proclaimed your kingdom, and obeyed your will even to death on the cross. Through his mighty resurrection he overcame sin and death to set the whole creation free.

Therefore, with saints and angels and with all the choirs of heaven, we join in the song of eternal praise.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise you, Father, that on the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant of my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.' As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Therefore, gracious God, with this bread and this cup we remember that our Lord offered his life for us. Believing the witness of his resurrection and ascension, we look for his coming in glory, and our sharing in his great and promised feast.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of Christ and that we may live to your praise and glory with all your saints in light.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers and the prayers of all your people on earth and in heaven with the intercession of Christ, our great high priest, through whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all worship and honour are yours, almighty God and Father, for ever and ever. **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.**

### **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

The things of God for God's holy people

**Jesus Christ is Holy;  
Jesus Christ is Lord;  
Glory to God the father.**

Jesus said I am the bread of life. Those who come to me shall not hunger and those who believe in me shall never thirst.

So now we reach our hands to take and eat what is before us, the symbol of our fellowship with Christ and one another. We drink from the cup to refresh our spirits in God. We rejoice to be God's people, confident that, whatever lies before us, God is with us.

*Please come forward to receive the bread and wine. The Lord's Supper is available to all who love him from whatever Christian tradition you come from. If you do not wish to receive the bread and wine, do come forward for a blessing.*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

And now we pray together:

**Holy God, we praise you for all that you are. We thank you for your bounty to us, the love we witness through the ebb and flow of the rhythms of your creation. We thank you for the grace that you show to us as individuals. Give to us courage to enact a way of life to which you have called us. Give us boldness to be holy people, called to serve the world. May we be kingdom people who always dare to live and speak out, motivated by our faith in God. Amen.**

### **SONG:**

- Who you say I am

### **CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING**

Most Holy God, just as you gave us your Son in sacrificial love, now we give ourselves to you, that others may know that same love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COVENANT SERVICE  
Walking with Jesus – Luke 24:13-35  
14<sup>th</sup> September 2025



And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve and share the Lord  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**