

Worship from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Richmond, Virginia

April 26, 2020

The Third Sunday of Easter

WELCOME

The Rev. Gary D. Jones, Rector

POEM

"I'll Come When 'Thou Art Saddest" by Emily Brontë

Jane Fergusson

I'll come when thou art saddest
Laid alone in the darkened room
When the mad day's mirth has vanished
And the smile of joy is banished
From evening's chilly gloom

I'll come when the heart's real feeling
Has entire unbiased sway
And my influence o'er thee stealing
Grief deepening joy congealing
Shall bear thy soul away

Listen 'tis just the hour
The awful time for thee
Dost thou not feel upon thy soul
A flood of strange sensations roll
Forerunners of a sterner power
Heralds of me

HYMN 178

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord

St. Stephen's Choir

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Book of Common Prayer, page 355

Beverly and John Bates

THE COLLECT FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

James Smith-Parham

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-35

The Rev. Jenny te Velde

Chaplain, Westminster Canterbury

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples 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 recognizing 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 recognized 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.

THE HOMILY

The Rev. William S. Stanley, Vicar

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Let us break bread

Brent te Velde, Director of Music

EXPRESSION OF FAITH

Keith Dull, Gail Rucker, Dalton Mika, Anne McElroy, Brack Hill, Susan Dull, Anne Parrish

Lord, you have always given bread for the coming day;
and though I am poor,
today I believe.

Lord, you have always given strength for the coming day;
and though I am weak,
today I believe.

Lord, you have always given peace for the coming day;
and though of anxious heart,
today I believe.

Lord, you have always kept me safe in trials;
and now, tired as I am,
today I believe.

Lord, you have always marked the road for the coming day;
and though it may be hidden,
today I believe.

Lord, you have always lightened this darkness of mine;
and though the night is here,
today I believe.

Lord, you have always spoken when time was ripe;
and though you be silent now,
today I believe. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Maya Walton

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Penny Peebles, Robert Proutt, Marshall Orr, Holden Mann, Mary Virginia Scott, Hunter Locher, Katherine Oliver, David Hodge

We hold before God:
those for whom life is very difficult; those who have difficult decisions to make, and who
honestly do not know what is the right thing to do.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We hold before God:
parents who are struggling to make ends meet, children who miss their friends and teachers at school, and grandparents who wish they could be there to help. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We hold before God:
Those who are homeless or unemployed, those who are sick or dying, as well as family or friends who wish they could be with them.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We hold before God:
those who are disoriented or depressed by the sameness of their days, and all who are lonely, anxious, or afraid.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We hold before God:
those who are grieving the loss of someone they loved, and anyone who is disappointed in something for which they had hoped very much.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We hold before God:
All of us who are waking again to the blessings in our lives, during this time of adversity, that the stirrings to new life that we sense today will take root and blossom when the time of trouble has past.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, among the swift and varied changes of this life, help us to center our lives on you, trusting that you are preparing for us, and all whom we love, more than we could ask or imagine; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE
Wick and Colston Raquet

CLOSING MUSIC
“Here Comes the Sun”
Brent te Velde, piano
Peter Greydanus, cello

“I’ll Come When Thou Art Saddest” by Emily Brontë (public domain)

Supper at Emmaus by Carravagio (public domain)

Music for the Prayers of the People: The Peaceful Wood

Expression of Faith from *Celtic Daily Prayer, Book One*, The Northumbria Community, Andy Raine, principal editor

Prayers of the People adapted from the Northumbria Community

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Footage videotaped in the church was recorded in March, before stay-at-home orders were in place.