

Sunday 18th April 2021

Priory Methodist Church, Bedford

10.30am

Morning Worship led by Rev. Andrew Hollins

Welcome

Short piece of introductory music, played by Lynne Gound

Call to Worship

Singing the Faith 148 – Come, let us with our Lord arise,

1. Come, let us with our Lord arise,
our Lord, who made both earth and skies:
who died to save the world he made,
and rose triumphant from the dead;
he rose, the Prince of life and peace,
and stamped the day for ever his.
2. This is the day the Lord has made,
that all may see his love displayed,
may feel his resurrection's power,
and rise again, to fall no more,
in perfect righteousness renewed,
and filled with all the life of God.
3. Then let us render him his own,
with solemn prayer approach his throne,
with meekness hear the gospel word,
with thanks his dying love record,
our joyful hearts and voices raise,
and fill his courts with songs of praise.
4. Honour and praise to Jesus pay
throughout his consecrated day;
be all in Jesus' praise employed,
nor leave a single moment void;
with utmost care the time improve,
and only breathe his praise and love.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Prayer

Brief introduction to the Bible reading

Bible Reading - The Acts of the Apostles, chapter 3, verses 11-20 read by Sue Butler

(New Revised Standard Version of the Bible)

While the man clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's Portico, utterly astonished. When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. 'And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord....

Prayer of Confession

Sung Alleluia to introduce the Gospel Reading (*Music – Singing the Faith 757*)

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of the Lord lasts for ever. What is the word that is living?
It is brought to us through his Son: Jesus Christ. *Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!*

Jesus the Lord is risen; living with his followers;
giving his peace in the face of our fears. *Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!*

Gospel Reading - The Gospel of Luke, chapter 24, verses 36b-48 *read by Gordon Beeden*

(New Revised Standard Version of the Bible)

.....Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.'

Sung Alleluia in response to the Gospel reading

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

Reflection

Singing the Faith 20 - Be still, for the presence of the Lord,

1. Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here;
come bow before him now
with reverence and fear:
in him no sin is found –
we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here.
2. Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire,
with splendour he is crowned:
how awesome is the sight –
our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.
3. Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace:
no work too hard for him – in faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Author – David J. Evans (b. 1957). © 1986 Thankyou Music. Reproduced under CCL Licence 6663.

Praying Together

The Lord's Prayer

Singing the Faith 299 verses 1 & 2 only – Easter jubilation fills the streets and towns,

1. Easter jubilation fills the streets and towns,
celebrations have begun.
Hear the music and the dancing now,
join the laughter and the fun!
Oh, raise a joyful shout!
Clap your hands and dance,
let your feelings out.
Oh, hear what it's about:
Christ the Lord has come to set us free.
2. Put aside your sorrows, wipe your tears away,
for a better time will come.
There's a promise of a better day,
join the laughter and the fun!
Oh, raise a joyful shout!
Clap your hands and dance,
let your feelings out.
Oh, hear what it's about:
Christ the Lord has come to set us free. (Hoy!)

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Closing Prayer / Blessing and **The Grace**

Short piece of concluding music, *played by Lynne Gound*