

# Alton Baptist Church e-Service 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## Easter Sunday – He is risen!

### Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You that whether we are in the church building together or thinking about You alone, You are with us and hear our prayers.

We thank You that we can celebrate today the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God made flesh, who died for us that we might live.

Help us to grasp some of this mystery. To believe and be grateful.

Help us to know You as You know us, and to love You as you Love us.  
Amen

**Song:** See what a morning –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Qlc0UIRkBk>

**Prayers** - In your own words just praise and thank the Lord, for who He is, for what He is, for what He has done. Confess your need of forgiveness. Acknowledge the price Jesus paid; so that justice might be served, yet our sins forgiven.

**Reading:** Luke 24:1-8 *Jesus has risen*

**24** On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. <sup>5</sup> In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead?’ <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: <sup>7</sup> “The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.” <sup>8</sup> Then they remembered his words.

**Song:** Come people of the risen king –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9j07fbld3uY>

**Prayers of Praise, Thanks and Intercession**

Pray as you feel led.

**Reading:** Luke 24:9-12

<sup>9</sup>When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. <sup>10</sup>It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. <sup>12</sup>Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

The women's words seemed like nonsense. Peter was wondering to himself what had happened. They should have known better, because only a few days before Jesus had explained what was going to happen.

**Reading:** Mark 10:32-34 *Jesus predicts his death a third time*

<sup>32</sup>They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. <sup>33</sup>'We are going up to Jerusalem,' he said, 'and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, <sup>34</sup>who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.'

We can't blame the disciples for struggling with this. We have the benefit of hindsight, yet we still struggle to fully comprehend what Jesus has done. We know He died on the cross, we know He rose again, we know He ascended into heaven and we know He sent the Holy Spirit. We know He sits at the Father's right hand interceding for us, and we know He is coming again to judge the world. We know there will be a time of great tribulation, we know there will be the rapture, we know there will be wars, and we know Christ will win. We know He will reign for a thousand years on earth, then Satan will be released, there will be a mighty battle, the dead will be judged. Then a new heaven, a new earth and a New Jerusalem will appear and we can look forward to spending eternity with God.

We know all this, but I suspect none of us really understand it. We are not unlike the disciples on the road to Emmaus. We fail to see Jesus even when He is right before us.

**Reading:** Luke 24:13-35 *On the road to Emmaus*

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

<sup>17</sup> He asked them, 'What are you discussing together as you walk along?'

They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup> 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?'

<sup>19</sup> '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. <sup>20</sup> The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup> but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.'

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

<sup>28</sup> As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going further. <sup>29</sup> 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.

<sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup> 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?'

<sup>33</sup> They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup> and saying, 'It is true! The Lord has

risen and has appeared to Simon.’ <sup>35</sup> Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognised by them when he broke the bread.

**Song:** An Easter Hallelujah -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-j3NZEedHQaI>

**Reading:** Luke 24:36-49 *Jesus appears to the disciples*

<sup>36</sup> While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’

<sup>37</sup> They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. <sup>38</sup> He said to them, ‘Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? <sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.’

<sup>40</sup> When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. <sup>41</sup> And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, ‘Do you have anything here to eat?’ <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate it in their presence.

<sup>44</sup> He said to them, ‘This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.’

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, ‘This is what is written: the Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

Let’s pray that Jesus will open our minds so that we can understand the scriptures.

He did leave a reminder of the essentials of His sacrifice when He encouraged his disciples to remember Him when they eat bread and drink wine. We have formalised this into what we call the Lord’s Supper or the Communion part of our service.

## **Communion**

*Based on 1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' <sup>25</sup> In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' <sup>26</sup> For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Let us keep these words in our minds as we share bread and wine.

**Song:** Jesus is the name we honour -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POmIxtEr9Rk>

## **Grace**

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Love of God,  
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us now and always.

AMEN

**Optional Communion** (for those unable to meet in church)

If you wish to include communion as part of your worship, find yourself some bread and wine (or juice) and click on this link -

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=na33U\\_QaEGQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=na33U_QaEGQ)