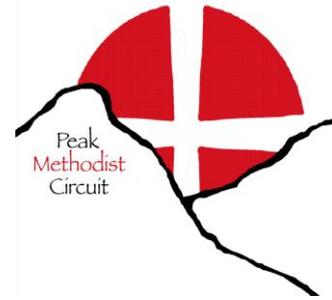


**'Staying Connected'**  
**Worship and Pastoral Resources**  
**For Week Beginning**  
**26<sup>th</sup> April 2020**



**Second Sunday after Easter**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We hope that this edition finds you well. It is a pleasure to be sharing worship with you this morning and as we remain in our homes, may it be a comfort to know that we are worshipping together and we hope these words are helpful for you.

Love, Tom and Chloe Donoghue

**Opening Prayer**

Risen God,

Together, across the Peak Circuit, we gather in our homes to worship you. Help us to connect with you in these strange times, and to learn how to worship in a new way. We ask that you be with us as we reflect, pray and sing. As you were with the two who travelled to Emmaus that first Easter Day, would you be with us as we continue to journey in our faith. We pray you bless our stillness and this act of worship. Amen

Let's pause for a moment and offer our lives to God afresh today.

**Hymn** I will offer up my life (Singing the Faith 446)

<https://youtu.be/e2Xq0qvHW6k>

**Psalm 116: 1-19**

The Psalmist is personally giving thanks to God and is promising to call on God's name for the rest of his life. He has been delivered from death and he lifts up the cup of salvation to celebrate and give thanks. The Psalmist is thankful for life. He trusts God for his salvation and as a grateful person he will **walk** (verse 9) before God, the Psalmist knows that He is loved and he wants to live a Holy life accountable before God.

We have enjoyed walking to Curbar Edge, on some of our daily walks, and on our walks we have found stones inscribed with bible verses. It is said that the Duke of Devonshire's mole catcher Edwin Gregory (in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century) inscribed the stones (known as the bible stones) after recovering from a serious illness. They were a token of his thanksgiving following his recovery from a serious illness.



**John 5:24**



**Isaiah 1:18**



**Hebrews 7:25**

A local information board says that there are 4 stones inscribed but we have searched carefully and can only find 3 of them – let us know if you know where the missing one is! (Matt. 16:26 – is the inscription we can't find).

We too can lift up the cup of salvation because Jesus has paid the ultimate price on the cross, meaning that our death is just the gateway into greater eternal life. Let us pause now and give thanks to God.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Saving God,

We come before you with grateful hearts, for all that you have done for us. We praise you with all that is within us, and thank you that you hear our calls to you and respond with love, grace and healing. Thank you that you give us rest, for our bodies and our souls. We are constantly amazed at the graciousness, kindness and compassion you have towards us. Thank you that when we trust in you, we are saved by your love and goodness, and you free us from our chains.

Praise the Lord. Amen.

### **Luke 24: 13-35**

Two people are walking from Jerusalem and heading to a village called Emmaus. It is a 7 mile walk (probably about 2 hours) between Jerusalem (where they had witnessed the prophet, powerful in word and deed sentenced to death) to Emmaus and it gives them the opportunity to talk and discuss with each other.

We're not sure to what purpose these 2 people are walking to Emmaus but they have somewhere to stay there, maybe they are returning home – perhaps they just want to get through the journey to return to normal life!

On this journey, they have time to walk with Jesus and hear about all the scriptures concerning to him. There was time for a conversation and there was time for depth – and as

they reach what they thought was their destination Jesus breaks bread with them, gives thanks and suddenly their eyes are opened and they realise that all along their hearts had been burning whilst he talked with them. And they rush back to Jerusalem to tell the 11, that they had walked and talked with Jesus.

What new and positive experience from your time in lockdown, will you continue to do after lockdown?

Let's make the most of the opportunity of time that lockdown brings, to walk and talk with Jesus. Let's lean into God, slow down and make the most, of at least the next 2 weeks, to talk to God.

John 15:15 tells us Jesus say's: *I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father.*

Let us lean into our relationship with a personal God, a caring God. A God with whom we can walk in fellowship, who is our friend!

Let's take this time to draw close to God and desire Him. Let us spend time with our friend and walk with him, and ask him who has he created me to be? Is this a between time? Where are we heading? What will I be like there? Will things be different? And who has God called us to be in that place?

Let's take the time now and keep taking the time to draw close, and walk with our God in friendship and let's go deep.

### **Reflective Prayer**

A time of reflective prayer based on a hymn from Singing the Faith 109 – [In the darkness of the still night](https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/hymns/in-the-darkness-of-the-still-night-stf-109/). (Reflection taken from <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/hymns/in-the-darkness-of-the-still-night-stf-109/>)

*Margaret Rizza summarises the idea behind this hymn as "trying to understand the sense of God in absolutely everything and to have trust in that, even in the still night". God's presence is not excluded by those aspects of life that make us fearful and vulnerable and which are very real:*

*In the tears and in the heartache,  
in the love through which we serve you,  
in the anguish of the dying,  
Creator God, you are there. (v.2)*

*"We've only got to read the paper to see the huge darkness people are in", Margaret says, yet she maintains her belief that "the energy of God is in everything" and that both her task*

*(as writer/composer) and ours (as worshippers) is to try to “get away from the duality that separates our bad experiences of the world from God and instead “to express the inexpressible”.*

*Margaret Rizza observes that “it is very, very important to come into the words before we come to sing them”. As she notes, this can be difficult to achieve in the context of a service – but perhaps not impossible.*

Consider reading the words of the hymn as a prayer, followed by a time of quiet.

### **Singing the Faith 109 – In the darkness of the still night**

Verse 1 :

In the darkness of the still night,  
in the dawning of the daylight,  
in the mystery of creation,  
Creator God you are there.

In the breath of every being,  
in the birthing and the growing,  
in the earth and all its fullness,  
Creator God, you are there.

Verse 2 :

In the homeless and the hungry,  
in the broken and the lonely,  
in the grieving of your people,  
Creator God, you are there.  
In the tears and in the heartache,  
in the love through which we serve you,  
in the anguish of the dying,  
Creator God, you are there.

Verse 3 :

In our hearts and in our thinking,  
in the longing and the dreaming,  
in the yearning of our heartbeat,  
Creator God, you are there.  
In the love for one another,  
in the sharing of our being,  
in receiving and forgiving,  
Creator God, you are there.

Verse 4 :

In our joys, our hopes, our healing,  
in awakening to revealing,  
in your call and our responding,  
Creator God, you are there.  
In our prayer and in our service,  
in our praise and in our worship,  
in your love that is eternal Creator God,  
you are there.

Margaret Rizza (b. 1929)

**Further Hymns:** Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us (Singing the Faith 594)  
<https://youtu.be/ekVLG-p8Xsc>

Blessed Assurance (Singing the Faith 548)  
<https://youtu.be/tb1QhxOtq3w>

**Reflective song:** I will say (Singing the Faith 657)  
<https://youtu.be/SGJIZvl8PJM>

### **Concluding Prayer**

Lord Jesus, we pray that you stay near to us this day, that we can feel you alongside us as we walk through life. Help us to lean further into your love, grace and peace. Loving Lord, would you be with us in the darkness of our still nights and help us to know that you'll never leave our side.

Give us the strength to face each day, hour and minute. Grant us your peace when we feel alone and lost for words. Creator God, help us to find joy in our surroundings, laughter in each day and friendship along the way. Gracious God, we thank you for Jesus and ask that we learn to walk more in step with him. Amen.

If you are on Facebook, Cliff College are sharing their morning prayers on their facebook page at 8:45am each morning (as well as keeping a copy of the video on the Facebook page for you to go back to).

[www.facebook.com/CliffCollege/](http://www.facebook.com/CliffCollege/)

### **Ministerial Contacts:**

Rev Adrian Perry 01629 812195 / 07479968472

Rev Julie Letts 01433 650305

Deacon David Hunt 07375 304760

Rev Fran Johnson 07502448019

**Website :** [www.peakmethodist.co.uk](http://www.peakmethodist.co.uk)