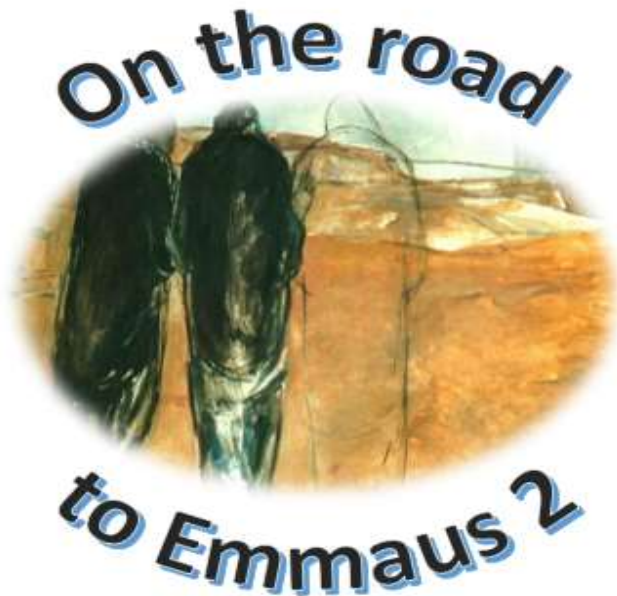


# St NICHOLAS CHURCH, SIGHTHILL

SUNDAY, 30 APRIL 2023



See what a morning, glorious bright

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Rs529D0HQ&t=96s>

## The Pilgrimage to Emmaus

The journey of the disciples to Emmaus in Luke 24 is not a pilgrimage toward Jerusalem but leaving it in disillusionment. It is a journey of finding our hearts burning as the disciples of Emmaus's hearts were burning at the moment of sharing a meal. The text invites us to find our own Emmaus where our heart to be kindled. Each of us meets unknown pilgrims who hide an unknown Jesus, but especially meets and encounters him- or herself, discovers that that he or she has a heart that hopes, eyes to see and ears to listen, and finds him- or herself in full solidarity with every human being. The story speaks about three places in which we meet the Risen Christ: scripture, eucharist, and community. It is a pilgrimage of hope and of expectation by listening to the Word, breaking the bread, and hearing the voice of the other because everyone is created in God's image.

*Guido Dotti*

## Call to worship

Leader: Brothers and sisters.

If you lift your net and it is empty, Come here!

**All: We'll cast it out again into Christ's abundance.**

Leader: If you open your eyes but do not recognize the Holy One, Come here!

**All: We'll find the Risen Christ here among us.**

Leader: If your life is filled with mourning, Come here! Christ is leading a dance of joy.

Come here, sisters and brothers!

**All: To give blessing and honour and glory to God!**

Song: All heaven declares

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HK\\_-csYvuRw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HK_-csYvuRw)

## Emmaus-Bound on Easter Day

**O WALY WALY 8.8.8.8 ("Though I May Speak")**

Emmaus-bound on Easter Day,  
Two travelers walked along the way.  
They'd once had hope, but hope had died  
When you, O Lord, were crucified.

When you appeared beside the two,  
They could not see that it was you;  
But as they talked and shared their pain,  
You gave them hope and joy again.

For as you spoke to them God's word,  
Explaining all they'd seen and heard,  
They understood what God had done  
And that a new day had begun.

They shared their home; you broke the bread.  
They saw you, risen from the dead!  
That moment's grace helped them to see  
The gift of God's eternity.

In scripture and at table, too,  
O Risen Lord, may we know you.  
And may your presence give us grace  
To share God's love in every place.

## Opening prayer and Lord's prayer

### Opening Prayer

Lord, Mary thought you were the gardener.  
The disciples on the road to Emmaus thought you were a newcomer. Why didn't they recognise you? Because you had been changed.

Resurrection isn't "coming back to life;" it's going on to a new life. It's transformation. When you rose, Mary reported it to the disciples. They didn't believe it. They were still in an upper room, behind locked doors. They had heard about resurrection, but it hadn't changed them yet.

Too often we live as if resurrection has not actually happened. We are still afraid, still doubting. Still ready to go back to fishing with Peter, back to the old life. We don't want to be changed. We say we do, but there is still much we hang onto. To be raised is to let go of everything, everything we want to cling to, even fear, and only love. Am we willing? Willing to cast our net in a different way? Risen Jesus, draw us up out of this life into a new one. Amen

## The Lord's Prayer

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

Now on that same day two of them 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.

## **On the road - reflection**

### **Offering/On the way to Emmaus**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1L8sG6HYvL4>

## **Prayers**

Throughout the Church, across the world, may the joyful message of resurrection break through barriers of complacency, that human spirits may be enriched and strengthened. Risen Lord, come, make all things new.

We pray for leaders and thinkers; that they may focus on the greatest good for those for whom they carry responsibility. Risen Lord, come, make all things new.

We pray for those broken in mind or body: for victims of war and attrition; for grieving families and communities displaced; for those without the essentials of life, where there is no hope, and daily struggles bring despair. Risen Lord, come, make all things new.

We pray for the people closest to us: those of our church family who are unwell, in hospital or at home; for those in our wider community; for those we have promised to pray for.

Lord, come among us with your grace that shows its perfection in human weakness. Risen Lord, come, make all things new. Amen.

## **Closing Song: Will you come and follow me**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o469PRLdbHU>

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

## **Final prayer/ benediction**

As witnesses we tell your story,  
as witnesses, we sing your song.  
As witnesses you give us courage,  
as witnesses you make us strong.  
Having experienced the joy of Easter,  
fill us with your Spirit, to go and tell the world.

**And may the grace...**