



St James C of E

PARISH OF ROUNDS GREEN

Sunday 26th
April 2020

Worship Songs

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[Great is thy Faithfulness](#)

Worship Songs

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[Light of the World](#)

Bible reading Luke 24:13-35 New International Version (NIV)

On the Road to Emmaus

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

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. 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?"

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

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

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. 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.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. 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?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

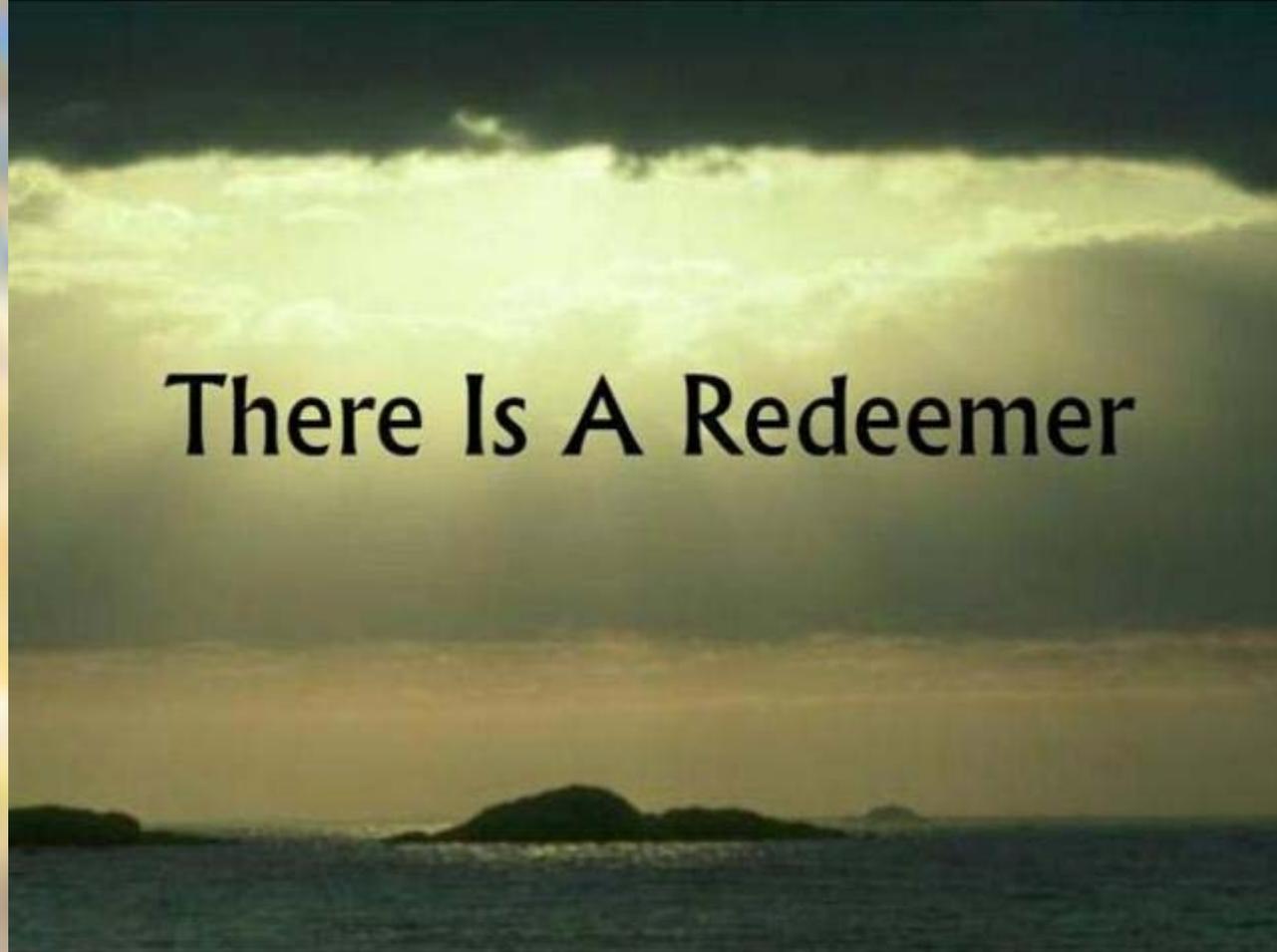
Bible reading Matthew 24

The Road to Emmaus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndtnZV-5QTo>

Worship Songs

click on the picture or the title – You Tube (you may need to skip the ads)



[There is a Redeemer](#)

Thought for Today

SUNDAY 26 April 2020

By Sharon Prentis

Luke 24: 13-35

Finding Jesus on the Road to Emmaus

Have you ever searched for something only to find that it was there all the time hidden in plain sight? There is a popular picture book series called Where's Wally? The books consist of a number of double page spread illustrations showing lots of people doing a variety of amusing things at a given location. Readers must find a character named Wally hidden in the pages. Although Wally is wearing a distinctive jumper and hat, it is often difficult to spot him amongst the crowd, but when you do it is so obvious that it is him!

Thought for Today

Luke 24: 13-35

In our reading today from Luke Chapter 24, Cleopas and his companion are walking to Emmaus, deep in conversation about what has just happened in Jerusalem, when they are interrupted by a stranger who is curious about their intense discussion. The 2 friends then proceed to share the facts with the unrecognizable Jesus. They are amazed that this 'stranger' had not heard about the dramatic events of the last 2 days- the death of Jesus of Nazareth. They even admit their own disappointment that Jesus wasn't the One they had hoped would deliver Israel. What amazes me is their willingness to talk so openly to a stranger! I am not sure I would be so willing to continue talking if somebody interrupted my conversation. This 'stranger' then proceeds to tell them what the Old Testament prophets written about the Son of God. It is only when they invite him to have supper with them and their guest blesses the bread and shares it with them that they suddenly realise it is Jesus Christ himself. There is much to the story about the road to Emmaus that makes us want to think that we would recognise Jesus, but would we?

Thought for Today

Luke 24: 13-35

Didn't our hearts burn within us?

In the story the disciples eventually recognise Jesus when he has a meal with them. But before then, they knew there was something different about this 'stranger'. Later they admitted, 'Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures' (Luke 24:32-33). The reality is that sometimes it is hard to see Jesus, particularly where we don't expect to see him. When our sense of order has been disrupted. This has never been so relevant as now in in our current circumstances. The familiar every day practices are no longer a reality. We have entered a 'new normal' where our hopes and expectations, routines and rhythms such as going to church, talking with those members within our church family and community and partaking in Communion have all changed. We can't see Jesus in the usual ways. However, we can recognize him in the countless ways that God's love is shown through acts of kindness, the dedication of others self-sacrifice and the gift of peace that passes all understanding. We need only to pray and ask because Jesus promises to 'never leave us, nor for sake us', as it says in Scripture (Hebrew 13:5).

Thought for Today

Luke 24: 13-35

But how do we keep recognising Jesus when we don't have the usual frameworks and routines around us? Well, as someone once said it is about 'pressing through and holding on even when it appears that God is not there in the same way. The disciples were disappointed, even discouraged because things were not as they expected. They even told Jesus this although they didn't know it was him. Expressing our disappointment is OK. In turn Jesus uses Scripture to remind them what was foretold centuries ago about the Messiah. Reflecting on God's word, along with prayer enables us to press through to faith.

What is amazing is that Scripture always speaks directly to what we are experiencing in real life. The sense of loss and disorientation is real. We miss our friends and family and often experience despair but what is so amazing about the story of Emmaus is that as they journey on the road to Emmaus, this apparent stranger comes to meet them and in telling him their story and listening to his explanation they move from sadness to hope.

The truth is that Christ, even in the most strange and challenging situations, is always there.

In our disappointments Christ is found in the ordinary things. Christ comes to dine with us and as we make space for His presence, no matter how we are feeling we are not alone. And yes, sometimes it is hard to see Christ and what he's doing but he is there!

Thought for Today

Luke 24: 13-35

That Last Supper or Communion is a reminder not only of Christ's self-giving on the cross and triumph over death, but it's also a celebration of fellowship. Jesus Christ was with his friends at supper before and after the cross. He is with us while we are being shielded, in isolation, while we observe social distancing-when we are apart from one another confined to our homes. He communes with us in these most extraordinary times when we can't gather. This was brought home to me recently when I heard of many people who have coffee, dinner and meals over the Internet and telephone, even though they cannot be physically in the same room. In one way it is a type of communion because Christ is also there. Charles Wesley called the Lord's supper the antepast of heaven. Those are the same words that the Italians use to describe the first course of a meal- antipasti. The Lord's supper is a reminder of Christ's great love sacrifice, but it's also a foretaste of heaven. Even though we physically can't participate in the Lord's supper in the way that we have been accustomed to, the Lord is at Supper with us. When we eat together, even across the airwaves we have a type of communion together and Christ is there. We remember of our connection to God and one another. When we pray and worship- even by ourselves- we are reminded that our fellowship is not only here and now but to come, that we are connected in so many different ways because Christ is in our midst and that he has promised never to leave us.

Thought for Today

Luke 24: 13-35

Lord,

Give me the eyes of faith to see you. Touch my heart so that I can see beyond my circumstances to the hope that is found in your death and resurrection. Thank you that by the power of the Holy Spirit you come and meet us wherever we are,

Amen

Christ in our midst

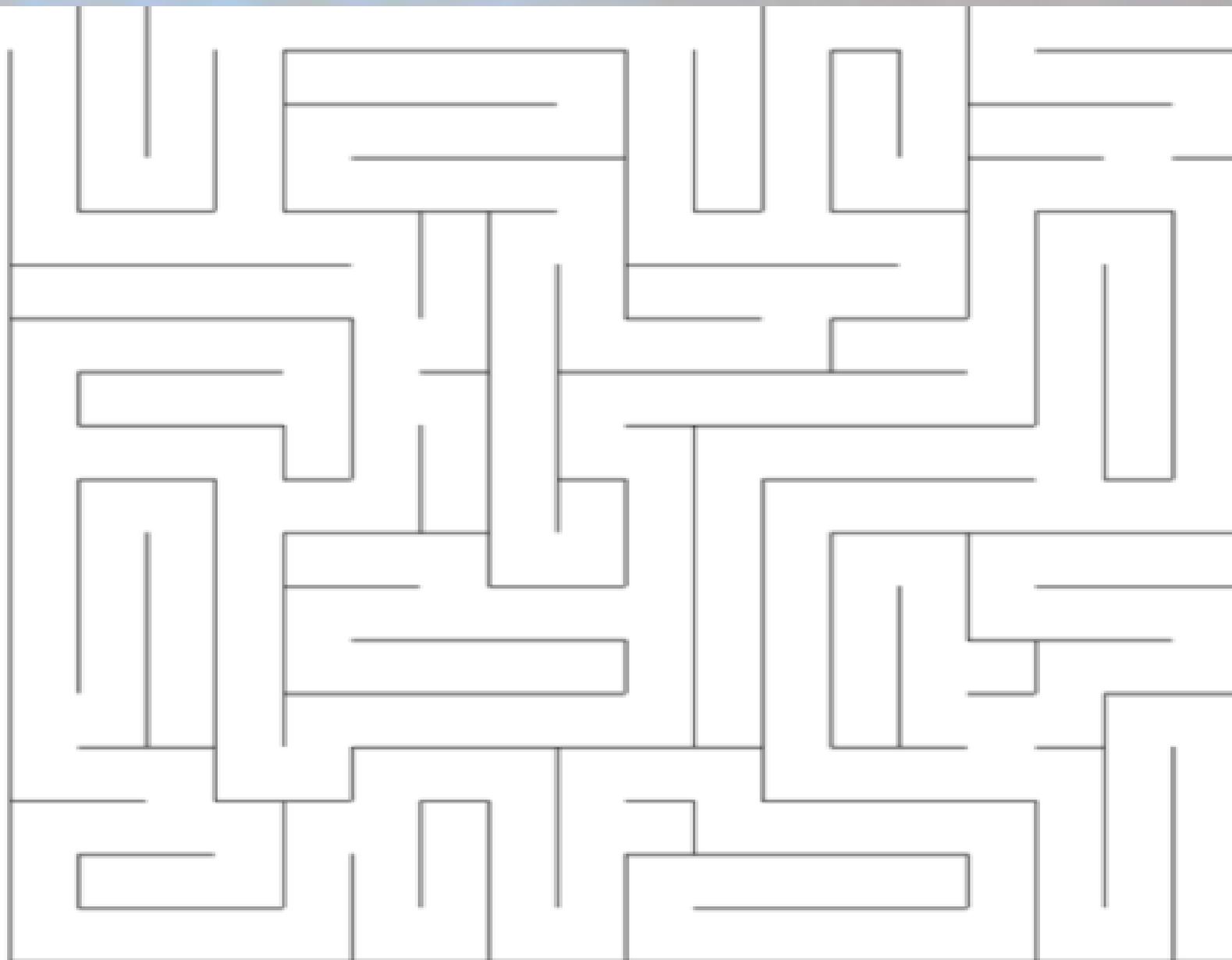
1. Is there someone you could invite to a virtual meal over the internet, or have coffee with over the phone?
2. As we eat either by ourselves or with others, in what ways can we imagine Christ being with us? What would he say to us?
3. Stop to think of all those people experiencing food poverty, or who are unable to provide a meal for their families – pray for the provision of their needs
4. If you're able to get out to do shopping is there a local food bank in store that you can donate to either in person or by phone? Food share for instance.
5. Can you bake a cake/cookies/bread for a neighbour, or someone that you don't know to show?
6. Who can you pray for today and ask Jesus to be with them?

Sunday Activity



Help Cleopas get to Emmaus

That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles out of Jerusalem. Suddenly, Jesus himself came along and joined them and began walking beside them. (Luke 24:13, 15)



Emmaus

Prayers

Intercessions for Easter 3 (26.04.20)

Risen Lord, even amid these strange days fill our hearts with Easter joy!

Risen Lord, you set ablaze the hearts of your disciples with awe and wonder at your resurrection: open afresh the eyes of your Church today to this astounding news. May it not be experienced only as a regular yearly ritual – just another season in the Church's calendar – but may it be news that hits us afresh with amazement, excitement, and reverence.

Fill our voices with joy that you are risen indeed!

Lord in your mercy – Hear our prayer

Prayers

Risen Lord, you see and judge the motives of rulers and leaders: raise up and sustain with your Holy Spirit people of integrity for the responsibilities of government.

In this time of hard decision making for those in power regarding future plans to return to normal life, give your wisdom as to the best way forward.

And in all this uncertainty and anxiety may peace and justice flourish.

Lord in Your Mercy – Hear our Prayer

Prayers

Risen Lord, you drew alongside confused disciples as they journeyed to Emmaus: give grace to all who accompany others in their searching for God. May many people unexpectedly find salvation in you as they work through, often, difficult days. And may we at St James continually be alert to your prompting to help them on the way to finding meaning in you.

May we still find ways to offer hospitality despite social distancing.

Lord in your Mercy – Hear our Prayer

Prayers

Risen Lord, you incline your ear to all who call upon you. Free us from any bonds that restrict our reaching out to others and dampen our praise of you.

Bless all who set their hope and trust in you.

Lord in your Mercy – Hear our Prayer

Prayers

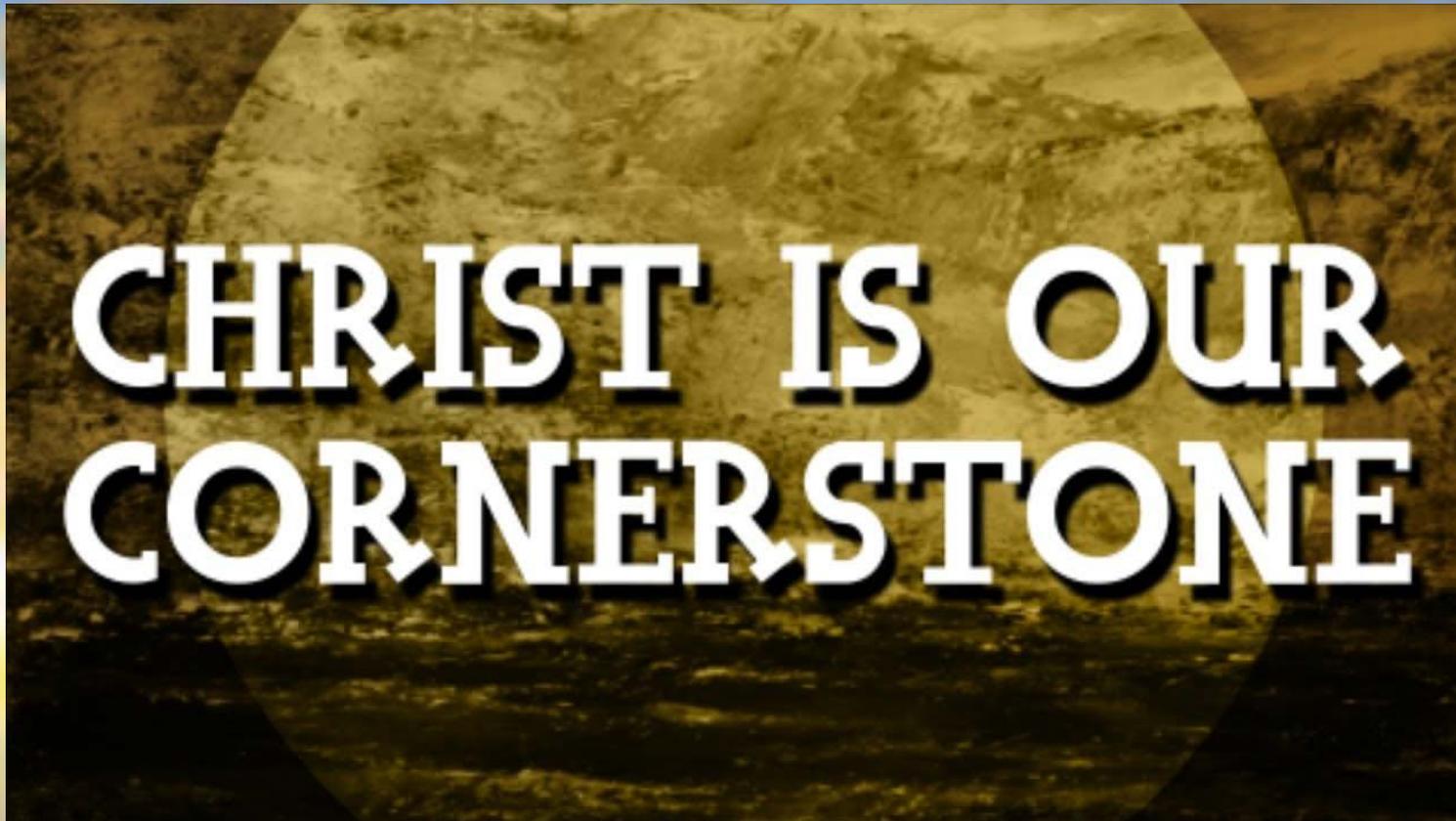
Risen Lord, you came to your disciples in the darkness and impaired vision of their grief: come close to all whose hearts are anguished by loss. We know many have already died and continue to die from the coronavirus; but many others are dying due to a variety of other causes. We lift them and their heart broken and grieving loved ones to you now.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers through our saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

Worship Songs

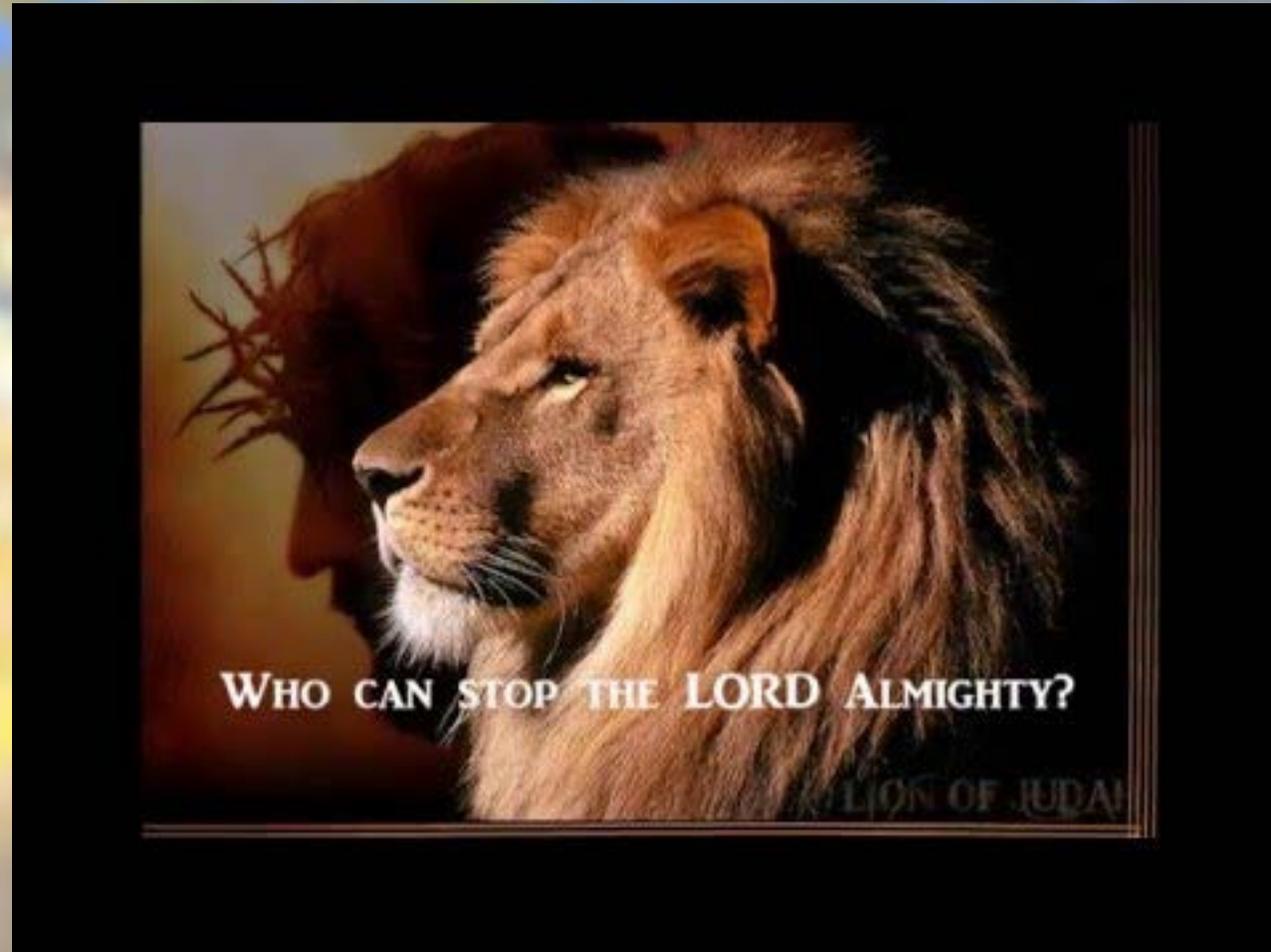
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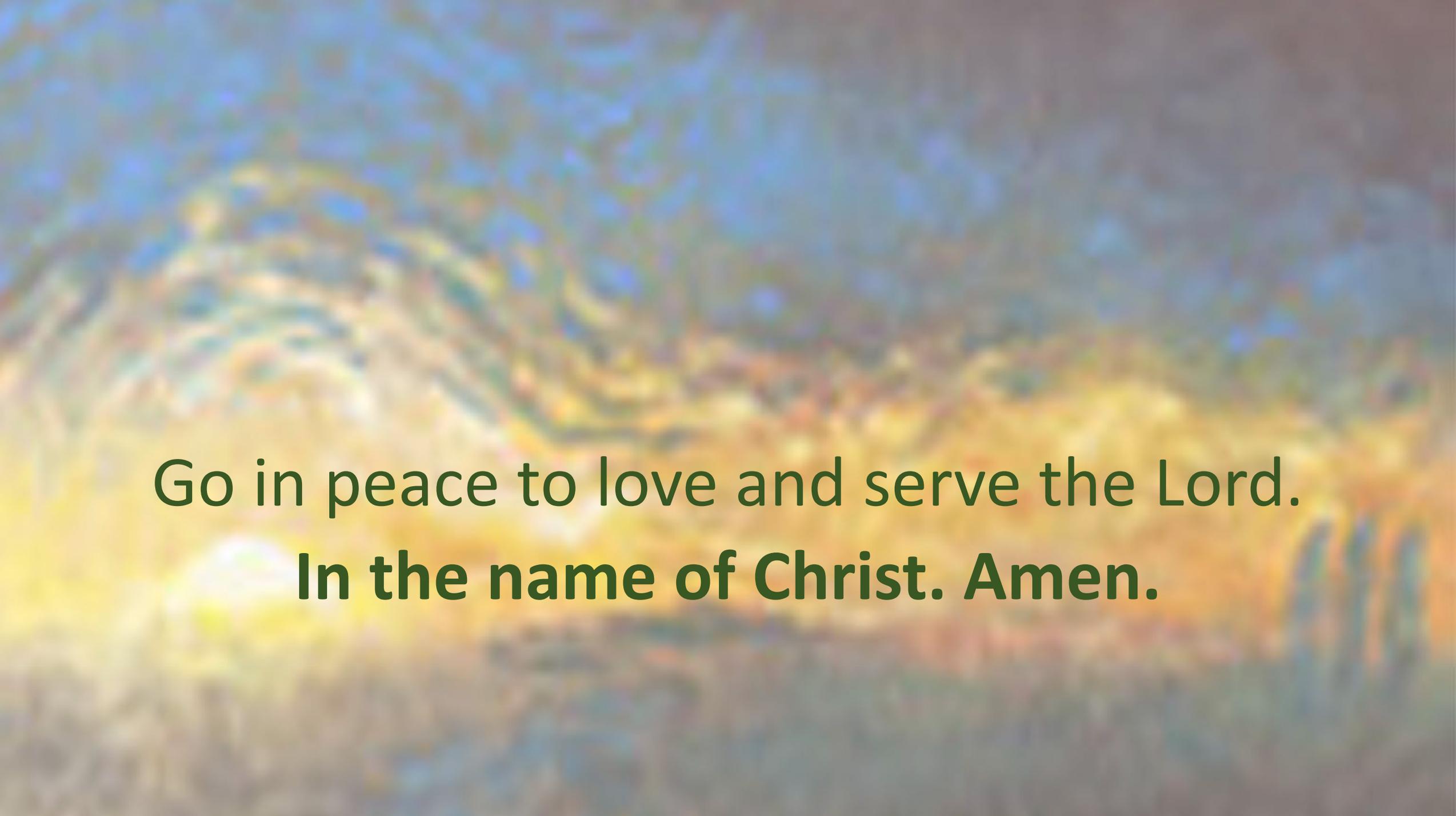
[Cornerstone](#)

Worship Songs

click on the picture or the title – You Tube (you may need to skip the ads)



[The Lion and the Lamb](#)



Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Other Easter Songs

- Forever <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKzS4SjBeb8>
- This is Amazing Grace <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgsbaBlaoVc>
- Mighty to Save <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnXX8TbUX-E>
- O Praise the Name <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqBpifDpNKc>
- Rescuer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wCfHXgJbdg>
- Happy Day <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRSOLhFqWh0>
- Lead Me to the Cross <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-JBbdJ5eZ8>
- Glorious Day <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ntwGWzdCwc>
- The Power of the Cross <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPFv-ywTY-c>