



Living the Faith Step 1

Easter Meditation: Resurrection Remembrances from Stages on the Way

Here are 4 testimonies of people, who for different reasons, did not expect to meet Jesus who had risen from the dead.

Between each reflection, a short song or Alleluia chant is sung. During the singing a symbol, representing each set of disciples is placed at the designated place, accompanied by a candle.

Symbols could be: A – a key (the ones who were afraid), B – bread (the ones who were confused), C – wood and nails (the ones who doubted) D stands in the middle of the room.

Personnel: A – a disciple, B Cleopas, C Thomas, D a disciple

A We had not been expecting him... and yet we had.
We were frightened, because he had been killed and they might be looking for us.

Then, when some of the women said that they had seen him,
we were more frightened than ever.

We had denied him, abandoned him, from a distance watched him die,
and kept quiet about our previous association.

What would he do with us now?

We sat, huddled in an upstairs room, locked away from the world,
afraid of 'them', afraid of him, sitting silently, with the bolt securely locked.

But he came and unlocked every door with his unexpected words, 'Peace...
Peace be with you. I am sending you ... out.'

B There were two of us, walking together, walking away from it all;
walking and talking, no... more than talking... arguing, arguing, and almost falling out.

We agreed on what had happened, we knew what had happened, we were there.

But what did it mean?

The kind of revolution we wanted was not what we were given.

And if he had set Israel free, why was he not around to proclaim its liberation?

So, it was good to have the company of a stranger, who was as interested in current
affairs as ourselves.

It was good to have somebody make sense of our confusion, draw together the loose
threads we had forgotten.

Though it wasn't until we sat down to share a meal, that our confusion really ended.
When his feeding of us began.

C For a week I heard the same story from each of them, and the more often I heard it, the less I believed it.

We had all been through a lot. We were in a mess. The unthinkable had happened, and we were lost, guilty and grieving.

I thought that maybe the death hadn't sunk in;

I thought they were refusing to come to terms with it, pretending that it hadn't happened.

His hands had touched us, his breath had blessed us, but now they were cold, and he was gone. All that was left was a memory.

Yet in all my doubt, I envied them, until doubt vanished, and faith kindled again when a well-known voice said, 'Put your hands here.'

D We don't see much of him now, though we've met several times.

He has touched us, talked to us, and even cooked breakfast for us on an open fire.

But he is going soon.

He's said as much, though how and when we'll not know until it happens.

And though we don't want it that way, we know that he has to go ... so that his work can finish and ours can begin.

Our Response: *Resurrection Remembrances from Stages on the Way*

- Each of the three tables will now have a lit candle beside the symbol.

All present receive a votive candle and stand in the centre of the room around the leader.

- The leader explains the symbols and invites all present to light and place their candle on the table representing the people they feel drawn to.

Music is played or a chant sung during this time

- In turn prayers are then offered by those who read the earlier reflections.

- A simple chant maybe sung or played while all return to their seats ahead of the closing prayer.

Leader: So often actions speak louder than words. As a sign of our intentions we are invited to place a candle on one of the three tables, representing our desire to be freed of our fears, our confusion or our doubts, or to offer our prayers for another person who is consumed by fear, doubt or confusion. The candles represent the light of Christ. As we place the candles we offer a silent prayer for our own intentions, and remain in that space.

Prayer A Lord Jesus, here are your disciples and those we represent who need to meet you in the midst of their fears.

Dispel the anxieties about ourselves, our past, our faith, and open from the outside the hearts locked to you from within.

Prayer B Lord Jesus, here are your disciples and those we represent who need to meet you in the midst of confusion.

Help us to identify your voice beneath and above all the other voices we hear,
convince us that there is calm at the heart of the storm;
and feed our faith on the certainty of your presence and all your promises.

Prayer C Lord Jesus, here are your disciples and those we represent who need to meet you in our doubt.

Help us to hold graciously those questions to which there are no easy answers,
enable us to discern the inability to believe which comes from our unwillingness to obey,
and in the pain and scarring of the world, help us to identify your hands, wounded
amongst us.

Prayer D Lord Jesus, glorious and resurrected, willing the best for us and daring to smile with us as we walk behind you; give us your hopefulness, give us your toughness, give us your peace.

This we ask in your name, Amen.