



Western Fells Methodist Circuit

**21 March 2021**

**by  
John Wilson**

## Call to Worship

Let us worship the living God, let us bring God our lives, let us honour his name! Amen

## Hymn – Be Still – Singing the Faith 20

Music [here](#)

1. Be Still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here;  
Come bow before him now with reverence and fear;  
In him no sin is found-  
We stand on holy ground.  
Be Still, for the presence of the Lord,  
The Holy One is here.
2. Be Still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;  
He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned;  
How awesome is the sight, our radiant king of light!  
Be Still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.
3. Be Still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;  
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.  
No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him.  
Be Still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

David. J, Evans[b.1957] [Thank you music]

## Prayers

We gather here, acknowledging the diversity of our lives, the challenges we face, the joys and sorrows we bear, bring us together, O God, that we may see you here. Amen

God of tenderness, God of furious love, God of strength, God of kindness, we come to you in confidence through your Son and what he did for us, asking you to bring us into new life by the power of your Spirit. Breathe on us again that we may live to glorify your name. Amen.

Dear Lord, forgive us when we have ignored the abundant life you offer us, when we have grieved your Holy Spirit. In you is forgiveness and you do not count our sins against us, for we come to you through Jesus, life – giver and resurrected Lord. Cleanse and renew us. Help us to be strong in times of trial. Amen.

Lord, we praise you. All we have comes from you. You are the resurrection and the life. We worship and adore you. You are the God who brings life from death, hope from despair, beauty from ashes and flesh to dry bones. Thank you that you include us in your great promise, that you offer us a fresh start and a new beginning – a life following you. Thank you for the precious gift of your Spirit in our lives. Help us to listen to your prompting within us, strengthening us when our faith is tested, when we are tempted to take a different path and behave in a way that does not honour you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

[Roots Adult and All age – March / April 2017]

### **Bible Reading: John 11 verses 1 – 45 - NIV**

#### **The Death of Lazarus**

11 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

4 When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, 7 and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

8 "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?"

9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. 10 It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light." 11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." 12 His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." 13 Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. 14 So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, 15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." 16 Then Thomas (also known as Didymus[a]) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

### **Jesus Comforts the Sisters of Lazarus**

17 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. 18 Now Bethany was less than two miles[b] from Jerusalem, 19 and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. 21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." 28 After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." 29 When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31 When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how

quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 34 "Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied.

35 Jesus wept.

36 Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

### **Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead**

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 "Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

The Plot to Kill Jesus

45 Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

## **Reflection**

What does it mean when someone says, 'I am dead tired,' 'this is a dead time of the year.' The phone is dead'. ?

What does it mean to be dead in our sins? Our sins make us spiritually dead, we cannot relate to God, our spiritual battery is flat.

How can we be raised to life if we are dead because of the wrongs in our lives?

Our sins build up a barrier between us and God so that God can't reach out to us and we can't reach out to God. God sent his son Jesus to die on the cross and rise again to break down this barrier. So, through Jesus we can come before God each and every day to receive forgiveness and new life and to start again. We can know this new life with Christ now and forever. In Romans 8 verses 6 – 11 Paul says that God's Holy Spirit gives us new life here and now.

## **Prayers of Intercession**

-Pray for all those affected by Coronavirus

-Give thanks for all who are caring for those affected by Coronavirus

-Pray for those you know who are ill, anxious, in mourning, facing difficult decisions, family problems or some other need.

-Ask God to continue to guide you and fill you with the power of his Spirit.

## **Hymn – The Spirit lives– Singing the Faith 397**

Music [here](#)

The Spirit lives to set us free,

walk, walk in the light.

He binds us all in unity.

Walk, walk in the light.

Chorus

Walk in the light, walk in the light,

walk in the light, Walk in the light of the Lord.

Jesus promised life to all,  
walk, walk in the light.  
The dead were wakened by his call.  
Walk, walk in the light.

He died in pain on Calvary, walk,  
walk in the light.  
To save the lost like you and me,  
walk, walk in the light.

We know his death was not the end,  
walk, walk in the light.  
He gave his Spirit to be our friend,  
walk, walk in the light.

By Jesus' love our wounds are healed,  
walk, walk in the light.  
The Father's kindness is revealed.  
walk, walk in the light.

The Spirit lives in you and me.  
walk, walk in the light.  
His light will shine for all to see.  
walk, walk in the light.

Damian Lundy [ 1944 – 1996] [Kevin Mayhew limited]

### **Final Prayer**

Life – giving God, go with us, in the bustling lives we lead. May we know your strength and peace, surrounding us always, in Jesus' name. Amen.

[Roots Adult and All Age March / April 2017]