

Luke 24

Emmaus Road Baptism

Brevity is not my strong suit – especially when talking about the scriptures...because they are so exciting and interesting and...well let's just say I have trouble controlling myself.
However, I will try my best this morning.

It's such an honour for me as a minister
and for us as a congregation
to have welcomed baby Callum and his family.
I want you to know that this trust you have placed in us – bringing one of the most precious treasures in your life, and entrusting his spiritual life to us
I do not take that lightly.

Callum, you have reminded us what life is all about.
When we see you here – so sweet and alive, we thank God

They have brought you here to say that in the great blessing of life
you do not belong to them
but rather to the mystery of life
something greater than all of us
that we call God – the divine – the Holy One

And in giving you to these waters, and into our care
they have taken a brave and powerful step of faith
and we pray that we are worthy of their trust
and of you.

What we promise is the only thing we can promise you. Ourselves. We promise to walk with you on your journey of life, and to accept you as a brother.
We believe with all that is in us that life is fuller and richer and closer to the heartbeat of God when we walk the road together.

We wish and pray for you a life of happiness and wonderful things.
We know, though, that as much as your family and all those to whom you are precious – as much as all of us would have it otherwise,
we know that life will also bring you pain.

When it does, we pray that we can be there for you
that you'll know you can turn to us
not because we have all the answers
but because we know some of the right questions
and we too have been wounded by life
and we know that love endures.

We know where to go for comfort
and more than anything else, we know that we do not walk alone.

I hope and pray for you that you will learn the stories of Jesus
and that when you ask some day about your baptism
your mom and dad and your big sister will tell you that the day you were baptized, we read the story of
Jesus walking on the road to Emmaus.

Not everyone gets to hear about him this way.

Some people are shown a very different picture of Jesus: Jesus as a harsh judge, who wants you to sit
up straight, and behave and whatever you do, don't have fun.

Some are shown Jesus as a conquering hero

and still others Jesus who died for your sins and who will only accept you if you accept that in a certain
way

but here -

here we see Jesus the stranger, who simply walks with us on the road.

Who talks with us about what it is that's going on in our lives

and helps us to see them in a different way....

notice they don't recognize him in the talking though...they recognize him when they invite a stranger
to dinner, and when they ate together.

Jesus who walks with us on the road. He reminds us that there is SO MUCH MORE to life than meets
the eye.

Life is mysterious and holy....afame with depth and wonder and meaning and hope.

My final prayer for you Callum, and for all of you

is that you'll take time in your life to notice who is walking with you on the road....

that you're always aware that with you is One who loves you beyond imagining

who will always be there

who calls you to walk with others on the way

and to a life of wonder and love.

Amen