

29 March 2020

If only

John 11.1-45

Jesus raises his dear friend Lazarus to life and restores the faith of Lazarus' sisters Martha and Mary. But in Bethany, only two miles from Jerusalem, Jesus' own life is increasingly at risk from the authorities there.

To explore: how is Jesus present when things go wrong?

Picture it



- Who/what do you call upon when things go wrong?
- When things go wrong, how is Jesus present for you?
- ...and when things are going well?

Opening Prayer

Living Lord Jesus,

let us draw near to worship you.

Let the same spirit that brought Lazarus out of the grave,
and raised you to new life,
dwell in us today.

Amen.

Confession

Lord, forgive us when we don't always trust you,
when we don't always trust that you know best.

Forgive us when we think our timing is better than yours,
when we think that we know best.

Forgive us when we demand things from you,
when we want everything now,
and stamp our feet when we don't get it.

Forgive us when we turn away from you,
when we don't understand why things have gone wrong,
when we feel let down and hurt,
thinking that you have rejected us and abandoned us.

For you never reject or abandon us.

Forgive us, Lord, and give us renewed hope.

Amen.

Intercessions

We pray for all who weep today:

for those who grieve and mourn for the loss of loved ones – husbands, wives, mothers, fathers,
daughters, sons, brothers, sisters, friends...

Lord, weep with us and bring fresh hope.

We pray for those who care for people at the end of their earthly lives: chaplains, hospice workers, nurses, doctors, carers, pastors, undertakers...
Give them strength, courage, empathy and love as they walk with those who weep.
Lord, weep with us and bring fresh hope.

We pray for broken relationships where there seems to be no hope;
for families destroyed by death, poverty, war, violence, or abuse;
for those who feel let down by society;
and for those who feel let down by you –
may all know your presence in those dark times.
As they wait on you, comfort them, Lord, we pray.
Lord, weep with us and bring fresh hope.
Amen.

Sending Out
As we wait on you, Lord God,
renew our strength, our hope, and our vision
to be your arms in this world,
reaching out and enfolding with love
all those we meet this week.
Amen.

Collect of the Day
Gracious Father you gave up your Son out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion that we may know eternal peace through the
shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.