

Reflection for the Week

Last week the focus was on hands and this week the focus is on feet. The reading for the service on Sunday was **Luke 24: 13-35**. It is the account of two disappointed disciples walking to Emmaus from Jerusalem, lamenting the crucifixion of Jesus and coming to terms with crushed dreams. Jesus appears beside them on the road, providing new understanding of the scriptures, renewed hope and space to re-interpret the events they have witnessed.

The themes of 'journey' and 'walking' put me in mind of a famous poem which you may have read or heard before. Here is a version of it:

One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord
scenes from my life flashed by.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
one belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life had flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.

Troubled, I asked the Lord about this:
'Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you,
you'd walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome
times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I most needed You,
You would leave me.'

He whispered: 'I will never leave you.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you.'

Attributed to Margaret Fishback Powers

Jesus fell into step with the disciples on the Emmaus Road when they were at their lowest ebb. They were on the point of losing faith and losing heart. Then Jesus appeared. Jesus also comes to walk alongside us, although we don't always recognise that he is with us. Pray that you might know and feel the presence of the Risen Jesus as you walk life's journey.