

~AT HOME WORSHIP~

EASTER SUNDAY

17th April 2022

Theme: ALIVE!



Call to Worship

Come! Why so sad?
Wipe away your tears. He is risen!
Let us celebrate! Hallelujah!
Christ the Lord is Risen today!
He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!



A gathering prayer

Risen Lord,
in the stillness and wonder of this moment,
we hardly dare to believe that you are indeed alive!
Yet our hearts are filling with faith, hope and love,
and our souls are beginning to believe!
Wonderful Lord, we fall on our knees with thanksgiving.
Amen.



Hymn/Song – See what a morning

https://youtu.be/-LgE_E7yaz4

See what a morning, gloriously bright,
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem,
Folded the grave-clothes, tomb filled with light
As the angels announce, "Christ is risen!"

See God's salvation plan wrought in love
Borne in pain, paid in sacrifice
Fulfilled in Christ the Man, for He lives
Christ is risen from the dead

See Mary weeping "Where is he laid?"
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name
It's the Master, the Lord raised to life again

The voice that spans the years,
speaking life, stirring hope,
bringing peace to us,
Will sound till He appears,
For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with
certainty
Honour and blessing, glory and praise
To the King crowned with pow'r and authority!

And we are raised with Him,
Death is dead, love has won,
Christ has conquered;
And we shall reign with Him,
For He lives: Christ risen from the dead!
(repeat)

Stuart Townend and Keith Getty (2003)



A prayer of adoration

**Creator God, giver of life;
Jesus Christ, Lord of life'
Holy Spirit, pulse of life:
we bring you our ‘alleluias’ and our thanks
for the joy, the hope and the wonder
of the Resurrection – which we celebrate today.
Amen.**



Prayer for the Day

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.



Saying Sorry

We are sorry, Lord, for the times when we stay in the tomb of
our lack of belief and fill it with our fear.
Forgive us, and release us to be your witnesses in your world today.
We are sorry for the times we are sceptical when others share
the power of the Resurrection in their lives.
Forgive us, and release us to be your witnesses in your world today.
We are sorry for the times when we live as if there were no Easter.
Forgive us, and release us to be your witnesses in your world today.
Amen.



Assurance of forgiveness

Jesus is alive! Jesus is alive!
Death is overcome: Jesus is alive!
He is your one true Son: Jesus is alive!
We are freed from sin: Jesus is alive!
Our new lives can begin: Jesus is alive!
On this joyful Easter Day: Jesus is alive!
So let us sing and dance and rejoice.
Jesus is alive!
Amen.



1 Corinthians 15:19-26

¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.
²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in turn: Christ, the first fruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴ Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Gospel Reading – Luke 24:1-12

Jesus Has Risen

24 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” ⁸ Then they remembered his words.

⁹ When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹² Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.



Thought for the Day taken from the Roots publication

Children may choose to use the Activity Sheet

If you will, imagine the scene. You are one of the women who cared for Jesus – spend a few moments putting yourself in this role.

And now, through senseless barbarity, your revered and beloved leader is dead. As far as you are concerned, the world has ended – how do you feel?

To honour his body, and out of devotion, you go to the tomb taking spices and ointments. You are grief-stricken. Your eyes full of tears – imagine that journey.

But the tomb is empty...apart from a pile of shrouds. You are terrified. Perplexed. Amazed. All at the same time. You don't know what to make of it. You had thought this was the definitive end. As far as you were concerned, there was no meaningful tomorrow. But something has happened beyond your human ability to understand. Does this mean Jesus is, in fact, alive?

This for you is uncharted waters. God, yet again, has confounded your expectations. And what happened next confirmed it: Jesus is alive! How do you feel now?

It is strange that however many years we have travelled with God, tuned into God's presence, believed we have known God's ways – we can be brought short in amazement. Catastrophe can bring down our world. We can feel that life has ended. And yet we discover God bringing us through to the other side.

The price of God's new life is always the same: a letting go of our fixed, pre-packaged ideas of what God is like, of what we are like and of what our neighbour is like. It is a call to get out of the safety of the boat and to walk on uncharted waters. Even, perhaps, to surf adventurously down cascading waterfalls, having no idea where we are going. The only certainty is knowing in our bones that 'God is with us'. There can be no end to the human ability to describe God's power. It bursts all bounds of our knowing.

The mystery of the empty tomb is that nothing, not illness, death, cruelty, treachery, or betrayal can separate us from the love of God and so God's gift on newness of life.



Family Song – Come on and celebrate

<https://youtu.be/kog4QkDT4Ho>



Reflection Song before Prayers – Led like a lamb to the slaughter

https://youtu.be/AqjR_jSfo9o

Led like a lamb to the slaughter
in silence and shame,
There on your back
you carried a world
of violence and pain.
Bleeding, dying, bleeding, dying.

Chorus

*You're alive, you're alive,
You have risen, Alleluia!
And the power and the glory is given,
Alleluia, Jesus, to you.*

At break of dawn, poor Mary,
Still weeping she came,
When through her grief
she heard your voice
now speaking her name.
Mary, Master, Mary, Master!
Chorus

At the right hand of the Father
Now seated on high
You have begun
Your eternal reign
Of justice and joy.
Glory, glory, glory, glory.
Chorus

Graham Kendrick (1983)



Time for Prayer

If reading these prayers at home pause after each one and reflect on the words – insert your own or let your heart speak directly to God about what needs to be prayed for. Don't rush this time. Prayer, today and every day, is at the heart of all that we can offer even when we feel we can offer so little.

Let us pray for those for whom today is just another day:

those who have to work;
those who have not yet encountered the risen Christ;
those who do not celebrate his love.
For God gave his Son,
to show his love and bring life.

We pray for all who flee their homes in desperation,
and travel into an uncertain future.

Strengthen them on their journeys,
and keep alive their vision of finding a secure and welcoming home.
For God gave his Son,
to show his love and bring life.

Let us pray for those who grieve today:

those recently bereaved;
those for whom this is a time of anniversary;
those who wait beside a loved one who is dying.
For God gave his Son,
to show his love and bring life.

Let us pray for all in need throughout the world:

those without access to clean water;
those with insufficient food;
those who cannot access the health care that they need.
For God gave his Son,
to show his love and bring life.

Let us pray for each other and for ourselves,
that we may have wholeness, peace and hope
through the presence in our lives of the risen Lord.

For God gave his Son,
to show his love and bring life.
Amen.



Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are Yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**



Hymn/Song – Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

<https://youtu.be/nzy7jFNuc3w>

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Dying once, our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened Paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies,
Alleluia!

Charles Wesley (1739)



Closing Prayer

Risen Lord,
**you always go before us – preparing the way,
leading us further along your path of life.
Today of all days, there is no more fear.
We praise and adore you! Alleluia!
Amen.**



Dismissal

May the risen Lord be with you as you serve him in the world.
May his strength sustain you;
his peace still you;
and his love inspire you to live and love as he did,
today and everyday.
Amen.

**CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!
HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!**

God bless you now and always

