

**WORSHIP AT HOME -**  
**EASTER SUNDAY**

**You will need a small piece of bread by you**  
**for use during this service**

As we worship today we remember those who are worshipping with us in their own homes and are blessed by Christ's abiding presence.

Christ **is risen**, He **is risen** indeed alleluia!

**Hymn:**

**CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY:** Hallelujah!  
Sons of men and angels say: Hallelujah!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high: Hallelujah!  
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply: Hallelujah!

Love's redeeming work is done: Hallelujah!  
Fought the fight, the battle won: Hallelujah!  
Vain the stone, the watch, the seal: Hallelujah!  
Christ hath burst the gates of hell: Hallelujah!

Lives again our glorious King: Hallelujah!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Hallelujah!  
Once He died, our souls to save: Hallelujah!  
Where thy victory, O grave? Hallelujah!

Soar we now where Christ hath led: Hallelujah!  
Following our exalted Head: Hallelujah!  
Made like Him, like Him we rise: Hallelujah!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies: Hallelujah!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven: Hallelujah!  
Praise to Thee by both be given: Hallelujah!  
Thee we greet, in triumph sing: Hallelujah!  
Hail our resurrected King: Hallelujah!

**Let us pray together**

**Resurrection God**, you offer life overcoming death, love overcoming emptiness, light overcoming darkness.

I give you thanks for the hundreds of small and powerful ways I experience resurrection every day as I watch the world through my window and glimpse your creative beauty.

Thank you for Jesus, who shows us how to live as a resurrection people, in this life with the hope of eternal life.

**Forgive me Lord for those times when I have ignored your call to live the life I am gifted, I'm sorry.**

**I trust that you forgive me, I hear your forgiveness intertwined with your call to me to live this life as best I can through your powerful Spirit Amen.**

**Read Today's Gospel Reading:** John 20:1-18

**The Empty Tomb**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

**Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene**

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

## Time to reflect

The Easter story is one that is familiar to us, we know it so well but how do we live it? What does it mean to be resurrection, Easter Day people, the whole year round?

Easter isn't just "happy". Easter is much more powerful than happiness. Easter isn't safe and calm. Easter is the big shout of protest to everything that is killing and murdering the world and all that tries to suppress it.

Easter are the thousands of volunteers stepping up to support those in the NHS and other services to stop them going under.

**That is Easter, the desire to support.**

Easter is the group of climate change protestors, trying to alert us all to the climate catastrophe about to happen, being arrested in their pursuit of the truth

**This is Easter, it recognizes the truth about life.**

Easter is the welcome we offer refugees who leave behind their home, fleeing violence and conflict for the increasing hatred and unjust politic of the west.

**That is Easter, it is the love of welcome.**

Easter is the powerful hope of defeating the grave with eternal life. **Easter is life beyond the things of death amidst the things of death.**

It's Easter, it is triumphant, it is victorious, it is compassion, it is angry, it is passionate, it is truth, life and love.

So at Easter we talk about life winning over death, light over darkness, hope over despair.

At the moment our lives have changed dramatically, but I invite you to really think about that life that you have been gifted, with whatever limitations you might have, and really embrace it, really live it as Resurrection and Easter Sunday people of God.

## A time of prayer

**PLEASE HOLD THE PIECE OF BREAD IN YOUR HAND AS YOU PRAY reminding yourself of God's love for the whole world and our place within.**

*WE PRAY - Resurrection God I bring before you now my hopes, desires, needs and concerns and I trust that you hear me and help me.*

*For your church, a people of resurrection; frightened, weary, hopeful – may we all know your love empowering us to live the life we are gifted.*

## **WE ARE ONE TOGETHER IN JOY AND SUFFERING**

For your world, a people and creation; frightened, weary, determined – may we all know your love empowering us to live the life we are gifted.

**WE ARE ONE TOGETHER IN JOY AND SUFFERING**

For your vulnerable ones, the sick, the grieving, the isolated; frightened, weary, loved – may we all know your love empowering us to live the life we are gifted.

**WE ARE ONE TOGETHER IN JOY AND SUFFERING**

I especially want to pray for .....

**WE ARE ONE TOGETHER IN JOY AND SUFFERING**

***Resurrection God,***

***I TAKE AND EAT THE BREAD I HAVE HELD DURING THESE PRAYERS, I am part of your body through the world, and you Christ are part of me. AMEN***

***Our Father who art in heaven.....***

Offering - We now set aside our gifts for God's work, until we are able to bring them together in worship. God bless these gifts and those who give. AMEN

***Hymn***

**THINE BE THE GLORY**, Risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
Kept the folded grave-clothes where Thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory,  
Risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the victory  
Thou o'er death hast won!*

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb!  
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom.  
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.

No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life  
Life is naught without Thee: Aid us in our strife;  
Make us more than conquerors,  
Through Thy deathless love;  
Lead us in Thy triumph to Thy home above.

**A prayer of blessing**

**May the blessing of God the Father, God the resurrection Son, and God the Holy Spirit be with you, with those you love, and those you pray for, this day and forever more AMEN**