

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT HOME 19TH April 2020

We worship in our homes, but we are not alone

Opening Prayer

In places of darkness and light -Christ is risen
In times of doubt - Christ is risen
In our pain and in our joy- Christ is risen
The Lord is risen - Hallelujah

Hymn - Holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky
and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity

Let us pray together

In the chaos before anything was, Lord, you spoke
bringing life in abundance.
We praise and adore you, God of life
In the darkness of an early morning garden and the
dank coldness of death and the tomb, Lord, you spoke
bringing resurrection hope
We praise and adore you, God of Life
In the dark places of our lives, Lord, you speak about
recreation, and call us to life in abundance
We praise and adore you, God of Life
God of abundant life, you have called us to be your
people and to walk in your way but there are times
when we wander away, when we close our ears to
your call and our eyes to your life. We remember
those times before you.....
Take all we have been and done and all we have left
undone and transform it through your love and grace.
Open our ears to your words of forgiveness and our
eyes to your glory. "Your sins are forgiven" AMEN

OUR OFFERING - Lord we offer our gifts to you now,
putting them aside until we are able to bring them
again. We ask you to bless them and us. AMEN

PLEASE READ Psalm 16 from your own Bible, then
Today's Gospel Reading: John 20: 19-31.....

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Time to Reflect - What does resurrection mean?

Into those shut doors and fearful hearts Jesus comes bringing resurrection and peace. This resurrection doesn't turn back the clock, or erase the horror of Good Friday. The marks and scars are still there. Without those marks, the pierced hands and side, the resurrection could not be real, and our life would not be real without many scars and hurts. A week later the disciples with Thomas are together again. Jesus meets them there again. We are not expected to make a leap of faith and travel towards it, but it comes and meets us, and then we need to be open to experience an inner encounter, a calm inner knowing and then faith to believe. The resurrection comes to empower and change us, and will lead us to what Jesus promised - abundant life in all its fullness, not as the world perceives it, but in the upside down Jesus way where everyone is blessed through it. But let's also notice that the doors aren't just closed on the first encounter, but the following week. It isn't just Thomas who is doubting, the disciples are still locked in. The meetings with the risen Christ haven't culminated in throwing open of doors and shouting

praises and preaching sermons. It seems there is a build-up, a gradual realization, a growing confidence in the resurrected Christ. This resurrection hope is ours too, Christ, now, in all, with all, for all.

Take a time to sit quietly, and then.....

A time of prayer

Into the closed doors of this world
come, Lord, and speak your word of peace and life

We pray for all those who are afraid at this time.

We pray for all those who are ill and for those who
yearn for their health.

We pray for those who are homeless and for those
who struggle to feed themselves and their families.

We pray for those who have lost their incomes or
whose businesses are at risk.

We pray for all those who offer care during this crisis
often putting their lives at risk to do so.

We pray for our government and all the governments
of the world, for business leaders and all who hold
any power.

We pray for those who feel voiceless and powerless.

We pray for those situations that no longer make the
headlines for those suffering from conflicts, war and
oppression, for those seeking refuge and those who
have no place of safety.

We say together The Lord's Prayer *Our Father*

HYMN - We sing or read.

GOD SENT HIS SON, they called Him Jesus;

He came to love, heal, and forgive;

He lived and died to buy my pardon,

An empty grave is there to prove my Saviour
lives.

Because He lives I can face tomorrow;

Because He lives all fear is gone;

Because I know He holds the future,

And life is worth the living, Just because He lives.

How sweet to hold a new-born baby,
And feel the pride and joy he gives;
But greater still the calm assurance,
This child can face uncertain days because He lives

And then one day I'll cross the river;
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.

We pause in silence, then sing

Hymn – In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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A prayer of blessing

May the light of the resurrection shine on your way
May the peace of the resurrection hold you fast
And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy
Spirit be with you now and always.

A FINAL WORD

Many are displaying rainbow pictures in their
windows as a sign of hope. This week I received
words from SheilaghWilson - her thoughts as she saw
the rainbow colours around her.

RED - Cyclamen, Fuschia and Camellia

ORANGE Wallflowers, & Narcissus centres

YELLOW - Marsh marigolds, Wallflowers, Dandelions,
daffodils & roses

GREEN - all the splendid array of new leaves and the
evergreens.

BLUE - Rosemary and tiny Chionodoxa

INDIGO - grape hyacinths and bluebells

VIOLET - a violet coloured rose in a mothering Sunday
bouquet

**Thank you lord for the rainbows colours of creation,
help us to discover the rainbow colours around us.**