**Sunday 12th April 2020** WORSHIP AT HOME: **Easter Day**

Welcome to our act of Worship for Easter,

the most important day in the Christian year.

Call to worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

A Prayer of Approach

Risen Lord,  
you have summoned this new day of resurrection.  
We pray that the light and warmth of your love  
may be our experience this Easter Day.  
May we recognise your presence among us.  
Lead us each into your new dawn.  
**Alleluia! Christ is risen. Amen.**

HYMN: Christ the Lord is risen today Alleluia

HP192, MP76, RS232, STF298

(Some of the hymn books widely used in the Wiltshire United Area)

Prayer of Praise

We praise you,

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

By your great mercy

we have been born anew to a living hope

for you have raised your Son from the dead.

In his name, we praise and adore you.

Alleluia! **Amen**

Prayer of Confession

If we have fallen into despair,

**Lord, forgive us.**

If we have failed to hope in you,

**Lord, forgive us.**

If we have been fearful of death,

**Lord, forgive us.**

If we have forgotten the victory of Christ.

**Lord, forgive us.**

May the living God raise us from despair,

give us victory over sin and set us free in Christ.

**Amen.**

HYMN The day of resurrection

HP208, MP- , RS246 , STF311

**GOSPELMatthew 28.1-10 The Resurrection of Jesus with special focus on verse 7**

7Then go quickly and tell his disciples, “He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.” This is my message for you.’

Alleluia! This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to Christ our Lord. Alleluia!**

REFLECTION

“Behind locked doors,” those are the actual words in John 20v19 describing where the disciples are on Easter Day. That is physical reality for most of us as self-isolation and lockdown continue. How can Easter embrace us behind locked doors in a world which seems stalled on Good Friday? Look into the pandemic and you will see beyond loss and brokenness. You’ll see humble and selfless acts of love. You’ll see care and compassion, kindness and generosity. You’ll see a shared humanity. Even in the horror of pandemic there is new life.

Mary is in a Good Friday world as she comes that morning to the grave. She is seeking Jesus among the dead, where all her hopes are. In that Easter garden her world changes, a world where miracles and wonder happen, where powerless love overcomes loveless power, where life is stronger than death.

It has dawned on me this year the significance of what the Angel says to both Marys, “he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.”

Galilee was their hometown! It would be amidst the familiar and the routine that they would meet the Risen Christ.

This year we cannot celebrate Easter in our churches but in our homes and when we realise the implication of the angel’s words that is deeply symbolic! The risen Christ will meet in the here and now of where we find ourselves. Christ, like to the disciples will meet us in ordinary and familiar, in the rhythms of everyday life. That, says the angel, is where we’ll see him. Indeed those are the places where Christ’s life intersects with and transforms our lives. They are described in the Bible stories we hear all the time. The Risen Christ comes to us in our homes!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Prayer of Response

Lord God of resurrection,  
may I know your resurrection power

and strength in my life,  
to live and work in the knowledge  
of your living presence with me.  
**Amen.**

HYMN Now the green blade rises

HP204, MP-, RS243, STF306.

*ALTERNATIVE: If you are at home with little people, they might like this:* We have a king who rides a donkey… *To the tune “What shall we do with the drunken sailor (It’s a good song to sing with actions!)*

Our Prayers. *In the power of the resurrection we offer our prayers to God.*

Lord, we hear of so many things that frighten us,  
and we experience our own moments of deep sadness.  
  
We pray for the world – our world and your world.  
Hold back the hands of hate,  
and establish peace in our hearts:  
where there is terror, may your comfort reign;  
where there is mourning, may hope rise again.  
  
There are many places in the world  
where people are crying out in pain and fear:  
God of resurrection glory, **draw near.**  
  
There are many people who are struggling  
with illness or sadness, with loss or worry:  
God of resurrection glory, **draw near**.  
  
There are many times when

we are perplexed and fearful  
because we cannot see what happens next:  
God of resurrection glory, **draw near.**  
  
May we know the reality of Easter hope in our lives today.  
May we know the healing power of the Holy Spirit,  
and may we live in the power of that Spirit today and always.

In the name of the risen Christ. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

HYMN Thine be the glory...

HP212, MP689, RS247, STF313,

Blessing

Go in hope, the risen Lord goes before you.

Go in peace, the risen Lord goes with you.

Go in love, the risen Lord lives within you.

**In the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Action:** On **Easter Sunday** hang some flowers and a white cloth on your front door, or put them in a window, or cover a table with a white cloth and set out a bouquet of flowers and a lit candle. Proclaim beauty, light, life, and hope. Alleluia!

A prayer in lockdown

***from The Association of English Cathedrals***

*The doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked.* (John 20.19)

Ever present God,

be with us in our isolation,

be close to us in our distancing,

be healing in our sickness,

be joy in our sadness,

be light in our darkness,

be wisdom in our confusion,

be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,

that when the doors reopen

we may with the zeal of Pentecost

inhabit our communities

and speak of your goodness

to an emerging world.

For Jesus’ sake.

Amen.

Rev David Coppard Superintendent @ Wiltshire United Area

Bank Chaplain @ Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton

*This is service is offered to any and all, with love and prayers.*

**Matthew 28.1-10 The Resurrection of Jesus**

28After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. 5But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7Then go quickly and tell his disciples, “He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.” This is my message for you.’ 8So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9Suddenly Jesus met them and said, ‘Greetings!’ And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. 10Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’

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1 Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!   
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!   
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!   
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2 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!

3 Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!   
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!   
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!   
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

4 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!

5 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!   
Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!   
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!   
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

6 King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia!   
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!   
Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia!   
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

1 The day of resurrection!   
Earth, tell it out abroad;   
the passover of gladness,   
the passover of God.   
From death to life eternal,   
from earth unto the sky,   
our Christ hath brought us over,   
with hymns of victory.

2 Our hearts be pure from evil,   
that we may see aright   
the Lord in rays eternal   
of resurrection light;   
and listening to his accents,   
may hear, so calm and plain,   
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,   
may raise the victor strain.

3 Now let the heavens be joyful!   
Let earth the song begin!   
Let the round world keep triumph,   
and all that is therein!   
Let all things seen and unseen   
their notes in gladness blend,   
for Christ the Lord hath risen,   
our joy that hath no end.

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1 Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

2 In the grave they laid Him, Love who had been slain,  
Thinking that He never would awake again,  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:   
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

3 Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,  
Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain;  
Quick from the dead the risen One is seen:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
Jesus' touch can call us back to life again,  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:   
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

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1 Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son:  
endless is the vict'ry thou o’er death hast won;  
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain:  
Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry thou o’er death hast won.

2 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. [Refrain]

3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;  
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conqu'rors, thro' thy deathless love:  
bring us safe thro' Jordan to thy home above. [Refrain]

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We have a king who rides a donkey,

and his name is Jesus:

Jesus the king is risen

early in the morning.

Trees are waving a royal welcome

for the king called Jesus:

Jesus the king is risen

early in the morning.

We have a king who cares for people,

and his name is Jesus:

Jesus the king is risen

early in the morning.

A loaf and a cup upon the table,

bread-and-wine is Jesus:

Jesus the king is risen

early in the morning.

We have a king with a bowl and towel,

servant-king is Jesus:

Jesus the king is risen

early in the morning.

What shall we do with our life this morning?

Give it up in service!

Jesus the king is risen

early in the morning.