

Traditional Home service Sunday 4th April (Easter Sunday)

HYMN 1 (*Christ the Lord is risen today*)

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.

In your mercy, forgive us.

All Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing. In your mercy, forgive us.

All Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.

In your mercy, forgive us.

All Lord, hear us and help us.

PRAISE

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ. Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs:

Let us sing to God with thankful hearts.

Open our lips, Lord:

and we shall praise your name.

HYMN 2 (*Crown him with many crowns*)

READINGS - Acts 10.34-43
Matthew 28:1-10

TALK

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Spend some time praying for our nation, our community and our families.

HOLY COMMUNION

THE 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 3 (*Thine be the glory*)

CONCLUSION

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

HYMNS TO USE

Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high,
Alleluia!
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply,
Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Alleluia!
Once He died 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 His rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

*Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788
Music: Anon., *Lyra Davidica*, 1708*

1 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem
drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.

2 Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing
who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

3 Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified;
no angels in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends their burning
eye at mysteries so bright.

4 Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity

*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

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
Bring us safe through Jordan
To Thy home above

Happy Easter!

Even in the midst of a global pandemic.

When so many people have suffered
darkness, loneliness, anxiety, hardship...

We can still say Happy Easter!

Why, well because Easter is the ultimate
expression of Hope.

Easter says that darkness, loneliness,
anxiety, sadness, fear, hate doesn't last
forever.

On Good Friday the followers of Jesus had
seen Him crucified on a cross.

Their hopes had seemingly been dashed.

All they could see was defeat, with no hope
for the future.

Then on the first Easter Day we hear that
some women arrived at the tomb to anoint
Jesus' dead body.

They found the tomb was empty.

An angel told them that Jesus had Risen.

It says, "So the women hurried away from
the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy."

Their sadness turned to joy.

On the evening of that first Easter day, the
other disciples were gathered together in a
room, with the doors locked, and it says, for
fear of the Jews.

Then the risen Jesus appeared to them and
said, "Peace be with you."

He imparted peace to their frightened hearts.

Their fear turned to peace.

A while later, the apostle Paul, who at first
hated the early Christians.

He spent his time persecuting them, having
them thrown into prison because they were
claiming that Jesus had risen.

Then the risen Jesus appeared to him on the
road to Damascus.

His life was transformed...

His hate turned to love.

20 years later he wrote.. "the Son of God
who loved me and gave himself for me."

Easter turns our sadness into joy.

Our fears into peace.

And our hate into love.

And it says these things don't last forever...

Over this past year over 126,000 people
have died from coronavirus in the UK.

That is a lot of people.

That is a lot of sadness and grieving, which
is important to do, we should grieve our
losses.

Many people have the question, "What
happens when I die?"

Its an important question...

Headline in satirical magazine.
World death rate holding steady at 100%

It affects us all...

When you go to the funeral and the coffin
goes into the ground.
It looks final.

And it is unless death has been conquered.

Easter says we can have hope even in the
face of death.

Jesus dead body was raised to life.

He had a resurrected body, he ate fish!

*"Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to
be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to
grieve like the rest ...who have no hope. For
we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
and so we believe that God will bring with
Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him.
The dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we
who are still alive and are left will be caught
up together with them... to meet the Lord in
the air. And so we will be with the Lord
forever, therefore encourage one another
with these words" 1 Thess 4:13-18*

Death is not the end, God will raise us to
new life.

To live with him eternally.

That is eternal life. That is the gift that Jesus offers.

Your future is secure.

Easter is the ultimate expression of Hope.

The resurrection of Jesus confirms that what Jesus did on the cross worked.

On the cross all our sin, our guilt, our shame was laid on Jesus.

He took upon himself the sin of the world.

That includes all my sin and your sin.

All my guilt and all your guilt.

All my shame and all your shame.

He took it all upon himself in our place.

Easter says the cross was effective.

It really did what it set out to do.

We really are free now to have relationship with Father God.

Free to approach him without any guilt or shame.

Free to love and serve Him.

I used to be a sceptic when it comes to Christianity.

Then over 30 years ago I experienced the risen Jesus.

It transformed my life.

Millions of people since that first Easter Day will also say they have experienced the risen Jesus.

People from all walks of life.

People from all nations and tribe groups, the rich, the poor, the educated, the uneducated...

The resurrection of Jesus isn't just a fanciful idea or cleverly crafted myth.

It is based on good historical evidence.

Evidence that we can examine.

Easter means our present life can be transformed.

Because Jesus is alive!

Sadness can turn to joy,

Fear can be turned to peace.

Hate can be turned to love.

Despair can be turned to Hope.

There is a great painting, done by Holman Hunt called the Light of the world.

It shows Jesus standing outside a door knocking.

The scene is of an over grown garden.

The scene depicts someone's life with Jesus knocking on the door, waiting to be invited in.

He's saying, Here I am, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone opens the door I will come in and eat with them and they with me.

In other words Jesus is saying I want to come and be part of your life.

In the painting there is no handle on the outside of the door.

Someone pointed that out to Hunt saying it must be a mistake.

But he replied and said, No, it was no mistake.

The only handle is on the inside.

Jesus doesn't force himself into anyone's life.

He loves us so much that he respects our free will.

He leaves us free to decide or not to open the door to him.

Maybe you have never invited Jesus into your life.

Maybe you used to know Him but your faith has grown cold over the years..

But you want to come back home...

Well, The Father longs for you to come back home..

If you would like to, then on this Easter Sunday take the opportunity to invite Jesus to come into your life.

If you want to do that, then here is a prayer you can use:

Just say, Lord Jesus Christ.. I am sorry for the things I have done wrong in my life

(take a few moments to ask his forgiveness for anything that is on your conscious).

Please forgive me. I now turn from everything which I know is wrong.

Thank you that you died on the cross for me so that I could be forgiven and set free.

Thank you that you offer me forgiveness, eternal life and the gift of Your Spirit. I now receive your Holy Spirit.

Please come into my life by Your Holy Spirit to be with me forever.

Thank you, Lord Jesus. Amen.

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If you prayed this prayer I'd like to invite you to do the Alpha course...

Even if you didn't pray that prayer I'd still like you to join our Alpha course.

We are running it online in the evening, starting on the 13th April.

It means you can do it in the comfort of your own home.

It will give you the opportunity to ask questions of the Christian faith.

In a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

It will give you the opportunity to examine the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus.

The greatest event in history!

Amen.