



Written Worship Easter Day 2022

As you prepare for worship this Easter Day, take a moment to be in the right place, and with all you need for worship – maybe choosing a seat from which you can appreciate the light from a window, maybe preparing a candle ready to light, finding a bible, making ready an Easter treat which will delight your taste buds...

Be still...

As we begin, we recall all those who find themselves in a place of fear or violence this day, holding them before God...

You may choose to light a candle as you pray

In company with Christians across the world, and through time, we say the Lord's Prayer, in the language and form which is most comfortable to us...

Our Father...

Read Isaiah 65:17-18 (or 17-25)

Hymn: Christ the Lord is risen today StF 298, H&P 193, MP 76

Alleluia! Christ is risen

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

These words have been shared between Christian people for centuries...

Who might you greet this Easter Day in person, by phone or on social media? You might choose to pause and do that now, or make a point of doing so later in the day.

And so we pray...

Glory to you, O God:
you raised Jesus from the grave,
bringing us victory over death
and giving us eternal life.

Glory to you, O Christ:
for us and for our salvation
you overcame death
and opened the gate to everlasting life.

Glory to you, O Holy Spirit:
you lead us into the truth
and breathe new life into us.
Glory to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. Amen.

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.

Silence

May the living God
raise us from despair,
give us victory over sin
and set us free in Christ. Amen.

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 ¹

Hymn: All ye that seek the Lord who died StF 294, H&P 188 OR I know that my redeemer lives StF 303, H&P 196, MP 278

Following on from the invitation to read extended passages of scripture during Holy Week, **if you have time today** you might choose to read all four gospel accounts of Jesus' resurrection. Each account focusses our attention in a different way.

Matthew 28: 1-10
Mark 16:1-8
Luke 24:1-12
John 20:1-18

Notice which gospel writer's account resonates most with you this year, which seems most helpful to you as you seek to reflect on Jesus' resurrection. Once you have settled into part of the story which draws your attention, you might read again, and ask yourself one or more of the following questions, inspired by a pattern of worship from the Iona Community:

- What is the most important question which comes to mind as I read this particular story of the resurrection? How might I bring that wondering to God in prayer?
- Do I have a sense of why this account above the others resonates with me this year? What might God be saying to me in this particular way of seeing Jesus' resurrection?
- If I were to paint an abstract image inspired by this account of Jesus' resurrection, what colours and shapes might I use?
- What are the three most important words or images for me, my community, or the world from my chosen resurrection story this year?

If time is short, read Luke's account of the resurrection (Luke 24:1-12), and carry one of the questions in your mind to ponder as you go about the tasks and delights of this day...

Either way, you may like also to promise yourself the time to read Luke 24:13-36 (or to the end of the chapter) later this evening.

Hymn: Now the green blade rises StF 306, H&P 204

Again, if you have time, now is maybe the moment to enjoy a cup of something and an Easter treat. In the quietness notice with God how you feel this Easter Day. For some of us, this is a day of complete joy and delight. If this is you, celebrate with God and give thanks. For others, this is a day of more complex emotions. Recall that Jesus' disciples encountered a mix of feelings on the first 'day of resurrection'. You might go back to one or more of the resurrection accounts and look for the 'feelings words' – fear, joy, alarm, terror, amazement, perplexity...

We have fifty days of the Easter season (and a lifetime of discipleship) to reflect on the mystery of resurrection. Take the time you need now with God...

Having brought our own experience of this Easter Day to God, we make our prayers for the world...let us pray...

Holy God, throughout history, you have given your people dreams and visions of the world as you created it to be...dreams and visions of the new heavens and the new earth that you are creating...

You say "no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress" ... No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime" ...

You say "They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit" ...

You say..." They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain"

Help us to be those who dream your dreams of love and life in our time and place...and then teach us to work with you in the bringing to birth of your new creation...

Lord of life,
Hear us in your love ¹

We pray this day for those to whom we are closest...

Lord of life,
Hear us in your love

We pray this day for the communities to which we belong...

Lord of life,
Hear us in your love

We pray this day for Leeds... for all those people of peace who work for the common good in this city...

Lord of life,
Hear us in your love

We pray this day for our country...and for the world of which we are a part...

Lord of life,
Hear us in your love

Help us to be those who dream your dreams of love and life in our time and place...and then teach us to work with you in the bringing to birth of your new creation...

Lord of life,
Hear us in your love
Amen

Hymn: Thine be the glory StF 313, H&P 212, MP 689

God the Father,
By whose glory Christ was raised from the dead
Strengthen us
To walk with him in his risen life;
And may God bless us
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Amen ¹

Alleluia! Christ is risen
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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