

Sunday 31st March – Morning Worship for Easter Day

Led by Sue Nelms, LLM

<https://zoom.us/j/82311473640>

LORDSBRIDGE TEAM
OF CHURCHES



Opening Words

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Alleluia.

He has defeated the powers of death.

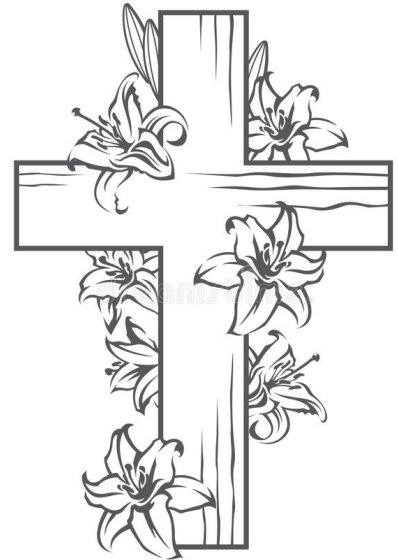
Alleluia.

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing.

Alleluia.

He has the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.



Gathering Prayer

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. **Amen**

1 Peter 1.3

Hymn – Jesus Christ is risen today

- 1 Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia.
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia.
who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia.
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia.
- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia.
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia.
who endured the Cross and grave, Alleluia.
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia.

3 But the pains that he endured, Alleluia.
our salvation have procured; Alleluia.
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia.
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia.

Surrexit Christus hodie
Anonymous Latin, Lyra Davidica (1708), Compleat Psalmodist (1749 Arnold),
Charles Wesley (1707-88) (Public Domain)

Here are words you may trust.

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead:

he is our salvation, our eternal glory.

If we die with him, we shall live with him;

if we endure, we shall reign with him.

If we deny him, he will deny us;

if we are faithless, he keeps faith.

For he has broken the power of death

and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

cf 2 Timothy 2.11-13

Confession

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.

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.

Lord, hear us and help us.

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

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celtic Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Now he is living, the Christ; out of the tomb he is risen;
he has conquered death, opened heaven to all believers.

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

Fintan O'Carroll (1922 – 1981) and Christopher Walker (b. 1947)
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Readings by Clare Crang

Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

John 20:1-18

The Resurrection of Jesus

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Reflection by Clare Coates

Let us pray: Lord God help us to follow the path set out by you. Fill us anew with your Holy Spirit and help us make the right choices. Amen.

I wonder how many of us planted bulbs last Autumn? Are they flowering yet? I should have planted some of my favourite flowers, daffodils, and this is high on my to do list for later this year! When we look at daffodil bulb, it appears to be dead. It's small, simple, dull in colour and with no signs of life when we plant them deep in the soil. All winter there are no signs of life. All we can see is the soil. And we wouldn't know if anything was there or have any idea about what's going to happen. However, in Spring, the bulbs burst into life, a sea of bright colours, a beautiful display with wonderful fragrances.

Every Easter day is one which gives us great hope, encouragement, joy and peace no matter how difficult things may have been for us. During this last year, we may have had to let go of, or say goodbye to many things. Something we may have enjoyed but just didn't happen. Maybe parts of our old lives have completely changed. And some of us may have had to say goodbye to people we love. I am thinking particularly this morning of all my friends in Hardwick and across the team who knew and loved Clare Bigg.

For Jesus's family and friends things have been absolutely terrible. They have lived through their worst ever day and witnessed Jesus dying on the cross. To make matters worse, and on top of their profound grief, sorrow and despair, that first Easter morning, they awoke to find Jesus's tomb empty and his body missing. It must have been absolutely devastating. Mary Magdalene's distress is clear in her anguished enquiries: 'What has happened to my Lord?' (v3) John tells us she fetches Peter and the beloved disciple to help her search, but all they find is the empty tomb and discarded grave clothes. It's clear they think someone has stolen Jesus's body. But God doesn't leave them in this state of desolation for long. Just at the time when things could not be worse, God intervenes. Two angels appear to Mary Magdalene and ask

her: 'why are you crying?' (v13) And as she replies, she turns and sees Jesus, but she does not recognise him until he speaks her name: 'Mary' (v18). What a moment of immense power and total revelation. Mary Magdalene finally sees Jesus, for who he really is, in all his glory, risen from the dead. Jesus is alive. From what John writes, I can just imagine her rushing up to Jesus, throwing her arms around him in utter amazement and overwhelming joy. This is a natural reaction and something we can all relate to. But Jesus's words: 'do not hold onto me' (v17) imply that she cannot cross an invisible threshold, as Jesus is no longer an ordinary human living human being but the living God.

Mary Magdalene's response to experiencing the risen Jesus should be our own. She immediately 'went and announced to the disciples: I have seen the Lord' (v18), telling them everything she had seen and experienced. In this simple sentence, it's clear that Mary Magdalene is the first witness to Jesus's resurrection. Thanks to her testimony being shared that it's known today. The Easter message is not a mirage, nor a magical illusion, nor does it point to an escape from any pain or difficulty we may be facing. Simply put, the Easter miracle speaks for itself. A reality, not just wishful thinking. Mary Magdalene has seen the Lord, talked with him and experienced his living presence for herself. Jesus is risen. The Easter message gives us tangible hope that doesn't disappoint. It gives us strength, whatever we are facing.

We too, like Mary Magdalene, are called to tell everyone the good news: that by the power of God Jesus rose from the dead and is alive. And his rising, allows us to not only just start fresh here and now in this life, but offers us the hope, and promise of eternal life with him. Easter is a reminder that just as daffodils and spring bulbs burst into new life, we too can look forward with hope. Jesus who was crucified has risen. Jesus is our hope, our peace, our future. So, however, bad times have been recently let's take strength and comfort from Jesus's resurrection.

Creed

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**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.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**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 led by John Crang

On this holy day, when we especially remember Christ raised from the grave, restoring us to grace, let us pray saying:

Christ is Risen! **He is Risen indeed!**

Risen Lord, Good Shepherd of the sheep, we pray for the Church throughout the world, wherever we gather in your name. We pray for Justin, our Archbishop, for Dagmar our bishop, and for all of us gathered here this day, that we might have the courage to live and preach the good news of God's love.

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed!**

Risen Lord, the Prince of Peace, we pray for this nation and for all the nations of the world.

We pray for the King and Parliament, and for all in authority.

We pray for all those who speak for justice, and all those who work for peace. We pray for the people of Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, Gaza and all places suffering under war and violence. And we pray for our local community, that near and far, we all may be gathered in your love and live under your gentle rule.

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed!**

Risen Lord, by whom all things were made, we give thanks for your creation. We pray for those who work the land and care for the earth; for the beauty and wonder of nature; and that we may use aright all that you have given us, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster:

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed!**

Risen Lord, arise with healing in your wings: We pray for all those who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. For and all those on our minds, for our NHS and all who care for the ill and vulnerable, for the lonely, the frail, and all who mourn; and for our own need of healing,

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed!**

Risen Lord, the resurrection and the life, we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you; For those we remember this day. and for all those whom we love but see no longer. That they may have rest in that place where sorrow is no more, and saints and angels sing out with joy:

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed!**

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Collect for Easter Day

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:
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 forever. Amen.

Hymn – Thine be the glory

- 1 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.
- 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.
Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son:
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.

3 No more we doubt thee, glorious prince of life!
Life is nought 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.
Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son:
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.

Edmund L Budry (1854-1932), translated by Richard B Hoyle (1875-1939) (Public Domain)

Notices

Blessing

God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to us who believe the gates of everlasting life. **Amen.**

God the Son,
who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,
give us joy as we share the Easter faith. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,
empower us and fill us with Christ's peace. **Amen.**

May almighty God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and forever. **Amen.**

He is not here. He is risen.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
In the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.