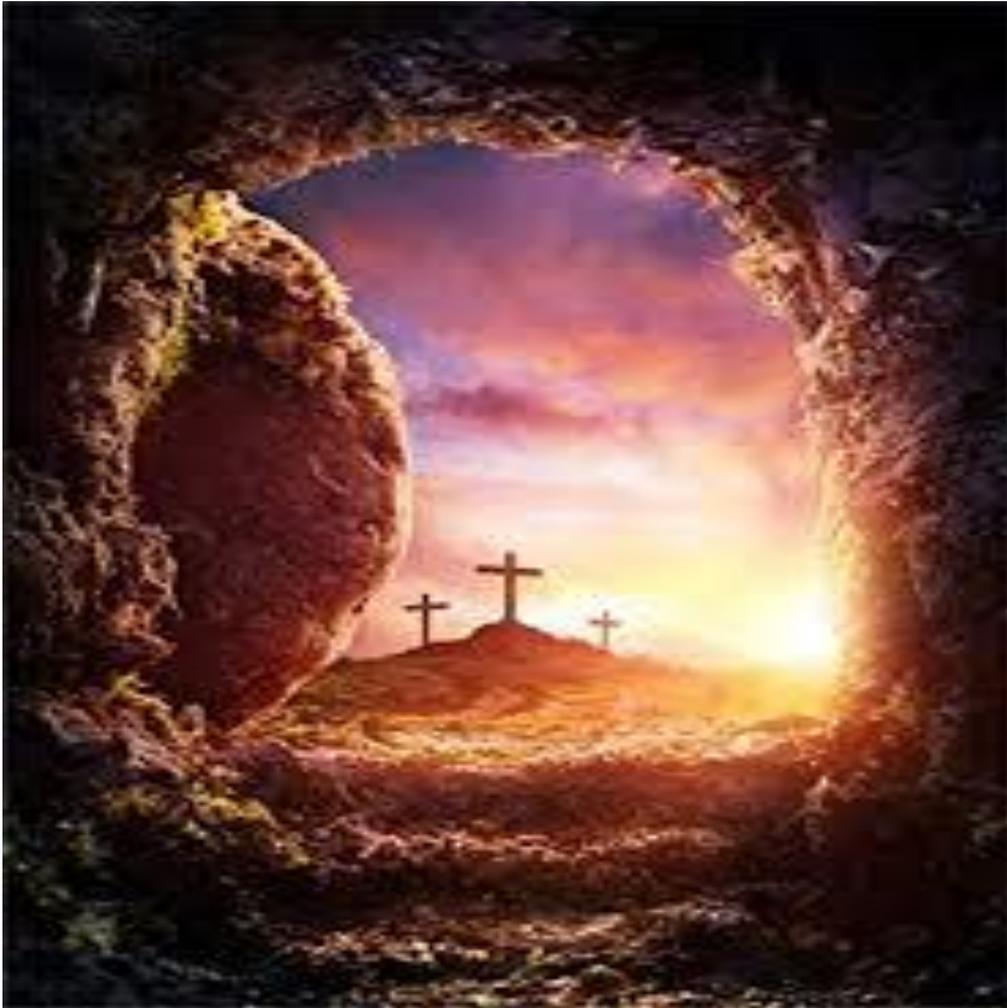


Worship at Home

Easter Sunday



Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the most important Christian festival, and the one celebrated with the greatest joy. Without Easter there would be no Christianity. Without Jesus' suffering, his execution and subsequent resurrection there would be no Christianity, for however terrible the suffering was, it was part of God's plan for the salvation of humankind.

"Christ the Lord is risen to-day,"
Sons of men and angels say.
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply.

(Charles Wesley)

To Celebrate this Holy and Glorious day, I will ring the church bell again this Sunday 11.am

**There are many Easter celebrations on TV and Radio,
For those who do not have sky TV or internet to stream The
BBC announced religious TV and radio programming to
mark and celebrate the holiest time in the Christian calendar.**

Radio 4

Service with arch Bishop of Canterbury

Christ is Risen! 8.10am lasts 48mins

T.V BBC1

Service with Bishop Kathy Jones, Dean of Bangor cathedral

He is risen, He is risen indeed 11.25am lasts 35mins

Opening Acclamation

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Lord's day is here, and amongst all the uncertainty, around the world we find ways to celebrate the resurrection.

Show us your new life, risen Christ. Amen.

Prayers

Living, life-giving God,

Who desires for all people life in all its fullness,

Who desires for all people lives filled with signs of hope and promise,

This glorious Easter morning we journey with you.

We add our voices to the generations who have worshipped and witnessed,

We bring you our thanks and praise.

You breathed the world into life and formed each of us in your own image. We ignored you and sidelined you, choosing to put ourselves first.

But you did not leave us in that place of darkness and isolation
But chose to give yourself in your son Jesus, to experience our life,
our joys, our fears and pain.

As he lived our life, he also died our death.

But the tomb could not contain him, and you raised him from death
that we might enter into a relationship with our living Lord.

So all praise and glory be given to you. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer.....

Readings: Colossians 3:1-4 - The New Life in Christ

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

John 20:1-18 - The Resurrection of Jesus

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. 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." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; 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. 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.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” 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.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). 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.’” 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.

Reflections on the readings

Why are we here?

What happens when we die?

What is the meaning of life?

Is this all there is to existence?

Perhaps these ‘big questions’ feel more relevant than ever at the moment.

Easter Sunday doesn’t necessarily answer all the big questions, and the Easter story raises one or two of its own...

But Easter does add a huge portion of hope to the equation.

That’s what this day is all about: “because he lives, I can face tomorrow”.

On Easter Sunday we celebrate the remarkable High point of the gospel stories – where the crucified Jesus becomes the risen Jesus. Where death loses its sting.

Where life, love and hope win against death, hate and despair.

This crucial moment in the Christian story, and in the story of humanity, doesn't immediately bring about the end of all that is evil, unjust or broken in our world.

Easter doesn't solve the world's problems. We know that, as we live through the pain and confusion of a global pandemic.

But that is why Easter matters.

Because, at Easter, we realise that "the worst thing is never the last thing"

At Easter, we learn that "it will be alright in the end, and if it's not alright, it's not the end"

The big questions, the uncertainty and the pain don't disappear with the resurrection. But everything seems a little bit brighter. That's what it means to be a resurrection people, to be an 'Easter people' – we have hope.

So when it comes to questions about the afterlife, we can't possibly know for certain what it will look like. But because of Jesus, because we believe in resurrection, we have hope.

When it comes to existential questions like 'why are we here?' or 'what is the meaning of life?', we don't know quite how to answer – but we have hope.

When we think about the future, when we face up to uncertainty and anxiety, when we watch the news or live with the pain of our families and friends, we can't bring immediate resolution. We can't fix everything overnight. But we have hope.

As Paul puts in Colossians, we are 'made alive' in Christ. We live life to the full, and we live it with hope, because we are resurrection people.

On that first Easter, Jesus' followers found themselves locked away inside. Scared, confused, bereaved.

Their whole way of life, what was normal to them, their lives for the last few years, had been taken away from them, and so suddenly as well. So as we sit in our homes, with so much of our normal not available to us, let us briefly look forward in the Gospel. Pentecost was just around the corner for them – our Pentecost is just off in the distance. The disciples will discover that they could not go back to how it had been, however much they wanted to... But that is for the coming weeks.

So today, as you go about your day, whatever that involves, go about it with hope.

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!

Prayers of intercession

Just hold a moment of quiet. Reflect on all you have read, heard and thought about so far in this little act of worship.

What do you need to bring to God in prayer?

In the quiet, I bring myself to you, Lord Jesus.

Move through me, that I might have the courage for this day, this week, this month, this strange 'season'.

[this as an opportunity to pray for the individuals, families, the community and situations that are on your heart today....

Loving God, amongst the darkness and uncertainty, shine your light. May I be a light to others this day, this week and in the months ahead, in whatever way I can. In Jesus name. Amen.

Blessing

We celebrate the miracle of resurrection, and we recognise the need for new life in the world around us. We are your people Lord, the people of new life – help us to use our gifts and our lives to inspire new life, to enable resurrection, by the Spirit of the living God. Amen

