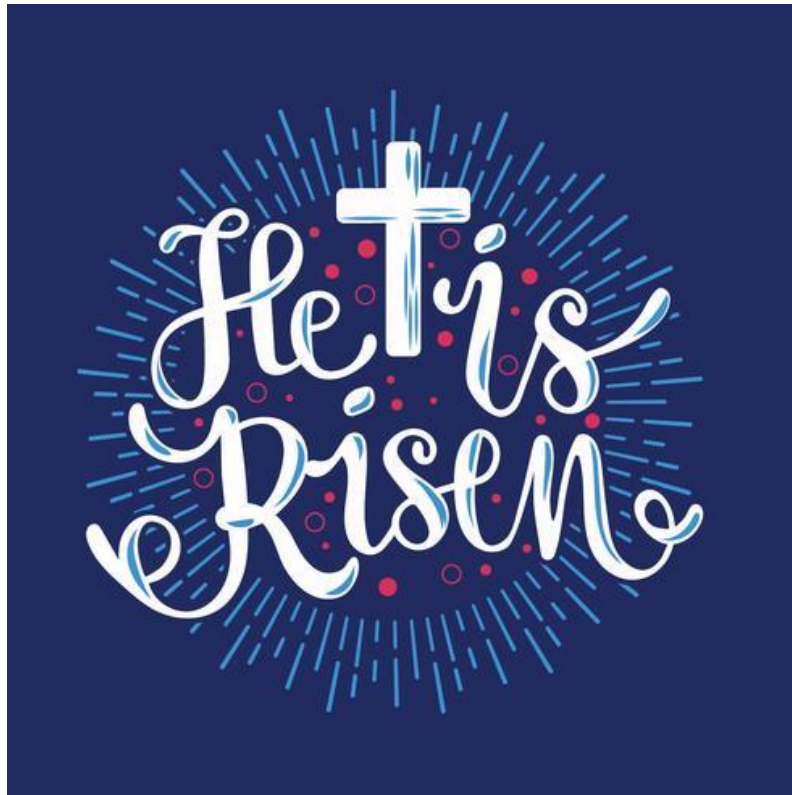


Easter Sunday Worship

12th April 2020



***Join with us in a journey of prayer and praise as we worship our
Risen Lord Jesus this Easter morning.***

Join in with us at home by using this service sheet and by joining in with the responses.

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing!
For the Lord has comforted his people,
and will have compassion on his suffering ones.

Isaiah 49.13

Jesus said, 'This is indeed the will of my Father,
that all who see the Son and believe in him may have
eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'

John 6.40

Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.**

Opening Worship – O, Come to the Altar

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.

Absolution

Easter Anthems

1 Corinthians 5: 7,8 Romans 6: 9-11 1 Corinthians 15: 20-22
1 Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us,

therefore let us celebrate the feast,
2 Not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness,
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
3 Christ, once raised from the dead dies no more;
death has no more dominion over him.
4 In dying, he died to sin once for all;
in living, he lives to God.
5 See yourselves therefore as dead to sin;
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.
6 Christ has been raised from the dead:
the first fruits of those who sleep.
7 For as by man came death,
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
8 For as in Adam all die,
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

Listen to these words of faith and belief and affirm them in your heart:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 again 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.**

Collect of the Day

Almighty God,
through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
you have overcome death
and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
Grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Prayers and Intercessions

We begin our time of prayer in thanks and praise to our Sovereign Lord on this Easter Day:

Living God, we thank You for this day of praise and celebration – a day of hope after despair, joy after sorrow, life after death – a day to lift up our hearts and to offer You our praise!

Loving God, we remember today all that You have done for us and for all the world – Your great victory over sin and death, Your triumph over everything that keeps us from You and prevents us living the life that You want us to lead.

Saving God, we join this day with Your Church throughout this land, this nation, this world, to bring our Easter worship – to acknowledge You as a God of loving power and of grace and to welcome Christ as our living Lord.

Sovereign God, breathe new life into our hearts this day. Fire us with renewed confidence and enthusiasm. Fill us with resurrection power, and grant that we might meet and walk with Christ, offering Him our joyful love and service this and every day.

We pray now for our land and our world as we face this time of pandemic:

Lord, we pray for those who are grieving at this time. We pray that You draw near, that Your comfort becomes tangible, that Your very presence becomes more and more evident during this loss and pain. You are the God who sees us and we pray that those who are hurting and vulnerable will know that You see them today, that You draw near and that You are their Comforter.

Lord we name before you those known to us who have lost loved ones over this period, not just to coronavirus. We pray for those we know who are sick and suffering with the virus, we pray that You strengthen them, return them to full health, enable them to get the care that they need and to protect those loved ones around them.

We lift before You all our medical staff and professionals, carers, community workers and those providing essential services. We thank You for their commitment and dedication to sacrificially serving others. We pray that Your outstretched arms will embrace their helping hands on the frontline of this pandemic.

We thank You for our leaders. The women and men who have to make decisions that directly affect our lives. We pray for wisdom, discernment, integrity and a sense of calm in the decisions they have to make. We pray for those in government, local political leaders, head teachers, business leaders and other institutions. We pray for a sense of unity and collaboration in how they work across stressed systems and structures. We ask for clarity and Your wisdom in how these leaders can help stop the spread of the coronavirus and protect our society. We ask for provision and release of resources that will help maintain, protect and sustain our health system. Jesus we ask for courage where courage is needed and patience where patience is required. We pray that these men and women lead well and are supported and encouraged by the public and Your Church.

Sovereign Lord, we declare that Jesus Christ is Lord and that You Father, are in ultimate control of this world. 'The earth is Yours, everything in it, the world, and all who live in it'. Lord of all, would You at this time demonstrate Your rule and reign on the Earth and 'let Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.' We are grateful for governments, medics and all who serve us at this time of crisis. We declare today that 'Our eyes are towards You.' We trust in Jesus.

Father we thank You for Your blessing upon us as the people of this island, and all Your faithfulness to us in our past. Now in this hour of desperate need we say, 'Lord, have mercy upon us!' Through the great and loving sacrifice of Your Son Jesus and the outworking power and presence of the Holy Spirit, forgive us our sin and heal our land.

Most merciful Father, we offer all these, our heart-felt prayers to You, in the confidence that You are a good and gracious God. You have invited us to make requests of You according to Your will, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. This we have done today in faith that You will hear our cry. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Wherever we are now, we use the words that our Lord and Saviour Himself taught us to pray:

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.

Closing Worship – Who You Say I Am

Closing Prayer

On this Easter Day we pray with boldness, as the People of the Cross:

The Lord God almighty is our Father:

he loves us and tenderly cares for us.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our Saviour:

he has redeemed us and will defend us to the end.

The Lord, the Holy Spirit, is among us:

*he will lead us in God's holy way.
To God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be praise and glory today and forever.
Amen.*

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