

Worship at Home – 20th April 2025 (Easter Sunday)

A short act of worship for use in people's homes prepared by Karen Frost.

Introduction

Hello! Welcome to worship on Easter Day! I wonder, have you any Easter eggs to eat? Perhaps you've already eaten one for breakfast! What does it matter?! Enjoy them! It is wonderful to be worshipping with you on this special day.

Call to worship

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia! Happy Easter to you! Today is the day we celebrate the resurrection, the day we recognise the potential for new life, the day we get to look for the miracle of God overcoming evil and darkness - in the Jesus story, and also in our own lives. Let us come and worship God.

Hymn – STF 309 – See, what a morning, gloriously bright Stuart Townend (b 1963)/Keith Getty (b 1974)

- 1 See what a morning, gloriously bright
 with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
 folded the graveclothes, tomb filled with light
 as the angels announce Christ is risen!
 See God's salvation plan,
 wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,
 fulfilled in Christ the man,
 for he lives; Christ is risen from the dead.

- 2 See Mary weeping, 'Where is he laid!'
 as in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;
 hears a voice speaking, calling her name;
 it's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!
 The voice that spans the years,
 speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,
 will sound till he appears,
 for he lives; Christ is risen from the dead.

- 3 One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
 through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty,
 honour and blessing, glory and praise
 to the King crowned with power and authority!
 And we are raised with him,
 death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered;
 and we shall reign with him,
 for he lives; Christ is risen from the dead.

Opening prayers

Heavenly, holy God, you are in our midst; here by your Spirit, guiding, prompting, comforting, holding. Help us to notice you as we worship this Easter Sunday, we pray.

Loving, living Lord, you have blessed us with so much, and today we give thanks for this new day, the start of a new week, the opportunity to love and to be loved afresh.

Let us take a moment to give thanks for the other things in our lives that we are grateful for.

Thank you, Lord; you hear our prayers, we know. Gracious, generous God, you accept us just as we are, and invite us to come to your table, regardless of where we have gone wrong, of where we have failed, or where we have fallen short of your glory. We come to you and say sorry again this day. May each of us know ourselves to be forgiven by your remarkable, resurrection power this Easter season. Come, Easter God, come and give us a new lease of life this day. **Amen.**

Hymn – STF 298 – Christ the Lord is risen today; Alleluia! Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

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| 1 | Christ the Lord is risen today;
<i>Alleluia!</i>
All creation joins to say:
<i>Alleluia!</i>
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
<i>Alleluia!</i>
Sing, you heavens; let earth, reply:
<i>Alleluia!</i> | 2 | Love's redeeming work is done,
<i>Alleluia!</i>
Fought the fight, the battle won;
<i>Alleluia!</i>
Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
<i>Alleluia!</i>
Christ has burst the gates of hell:
<i>Alleluia!</i> |
| 3 | Lives again our glorious king;
<i>Alleluia!</i>
Where, O death, is now your sting?
<i>Alleluia!</i>
Once he died our souls to save;
<i>Alleluia!</i>
Where's your victory, boasting grave?
<i>Alleluia!</i> | 4 | Soar we now where Christ has led,
<i>Alleluia!</i>
Following our exalted head;
<i>Alleluia!</i>
Made like him, like him we rise;
<i>Alleluia!</i>
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies:
<i>Alleluia!</i> |
| 5 King of glory! Soul of bliss!
<i>Alleluia!</i>
Everlasting life is this,
<i>Alleluia!</i>
You to know, your power to prove,
<i>Alleluia!</i>
Thus to sing, and thus to love:
<i>Alleluia!</i> | | | |

Bible reading – Luke 24: 1-12

Jesus Rises From the Dead

24 It was very early in the morning on the first day of the week. The women took the spices they had prepared. Then they went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from it. ³ When they entered the tomb, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ They were wondering about this. Suddenly two men in clothes as bright as lightning stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified. They bowed down with their faces to the ground. Then the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ Jesus is not here! He has risen! Remember how he told you he would rise. It was while he was still with you in Galilee. ⁷ He said, ‘The Son of Man must be

handed over to sinful people. He must be nailed to a cross. On the third day he will rise from the dead.”⁸ Then the women remembered Jesus’ words.

⁹ They came back from the tomb. They told all these things to the 11 apostles and to all the others. ¹⁰ Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them were the ones who told the apostles. ¹¹ But the apostles did not believe the women. Their words didn’t make any sense to them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb. He bent over and saw the strips of linen lying by themselves. Then he went away, wondering what had happened.

Reflections on the reading

93, 49, 14,056 and 1.1

What do these numbers have in common?

93 is the number of women who speak in the Bible;

49 is the number of women who are actually named;

14,056 – this is the actual number of words spoken by women in the Bible

1.1 per cent – the percentage of the Bible which records women’s speech.

Only 1.1 per cent of words in the Bible are spoken by women. I wonder if you have ever noticed that before? Luke’s gospel tells us that the women who went to the tomb on the Day of Resurrection were given a hard time by Jesus’ disciples when they tried to share their amazing news that the stone had been rolled away, and Jesus was not there.

In verse 11 we read “But the apostles did not believe the women. Their words didn’t make any sense to them.” I wonder what you would have thought if you had been there? Would you have believed the women? Would you have assumed they were being ridiculous and over emotional? Of course, Jesus is still in the tomb – isn’t he? It was only when the impetuous and curious disciple Peter ran to have a look that he realised that the women were telling the truth. The reading is joyful – it is an account of the resurrection which spreads out slowly, like light from a sunrise.

As we read, more and more is revealed. But it also reflects the culture from which it was written. In that community, at that time, the law said that women’s evidence did not even count in a court case. So, a woman’s testimony was often discounted – as uncomfortable as that may make us feel today, in our culture. This reading also asks questions of us. Who do we listen to? Who do we trust to tell us the truth? And perhaps the most challenging question in this world of fake news and misinformation: Who do we believe – and who do we believe in?

Easter Sunday is a day when we roll away the stone of our doubts and say with confidence: Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn – STF 313 – Thine be the glory Edmund L Budry (1854-1932)

- 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 his church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
 for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.
 Refrain
- 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.
 Refrain

Prayers for the world, others and ourselves

God of truth and love, we thank you for the Good News of the Resurrection – that Jesus is alive! Help us to hear the words of the women who went to the tomb, that the stone has been rolled away, and new hope has come. Help us to hear these words not just in our heads but in our hearts as we celebrate Easter together.

Hear our prayers and heal our world

God of truth and love, we live in a world where fake news and misinformation are rife. Help us to seek the truth and consider what we read and what we share. We pray for journalists, bloggers and writers who seek to work with integrity and tell the truth about global events. We pray that world leaders may speak and listen carefully and graciously, working for true peace and unity.

Hear our prayers and heal our world

God of truth and love, we pray for our community. Help us to listen not just to the stories of those we know well, but also to those people whose words are not often heard. We pray for people who may be treated with suspicion, but who have powerful stories to share. We pray for connection as individuals and as a church, that strangers may become friends as we tell our stories together.

Hear our prayers and heal our world

God of truth and love, help us to share words of love and comfort with those we know who are struggling with illness, bereavement and other difficult situations. When we face our own challenges, help us to hold the Good News about Jesus' resurrection in our hearts and know that you are always with us. Surround everyone in need with your love and care

Hear our prayers and heal our world

Thanks be to God. Amen

You may now wish to say The Lord's Prayer in a version or translation with which you are familiar.

Hymn – STF 487 – You shall go out with joy Stuart Dauermann (b 1944)

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace,
and the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you.
There'll be shouts of joy and the trees of the field
shall clap, shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and you'll go out with joy.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you in this Easter season;
the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you;
the Lord look on you with kindness and give you peace. **Amen**

Bible readings from [New International Reader's Version \(NIRV\)](#)

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