

Worship at Home – 5 April 2026 (Easter Day)

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

Welcome

Jesus Christ is risen today. Alleluia! Welcome to Worship at Home today. It's Easter Day! Perhaps you've already eaten a piece of chocolate Easter Egg today, or, oops, maybe a whole egg! Who cares? Enjoy yourself! Perhaps, like me, you've had eggs (boiled, poached, scrambled or fried) for breakfast as a reminder of the new life we celebrate in Christ. Today's theme is 'Let go of fear, embrace joy.' Let's worship together.

Call to worship¹

Come gather round, for we have a remarkable story to tell. Come worship together, for the light of love is in our midst. Come sing and give thanks, because life is stronger than death, love is stronger than hate, light is stronger than darkness, this Easter and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn

298 Christ the Lord is risen today; Alleluia!

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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> | Once he died our souls to save ;
<i>Alleluia !</i>
Where's your victory, boasting grave ?
<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> | 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> |
| 3 Lives again our glorious King ;
<i>Alleluia !</i>
Where, O death, is now your sting ?
<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> |

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

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Prayer

Loving God, today we lift our voices in unending praise! The stone is rolled away, the grave is empty, and death has been swallowed up in victory. You have broken the chains of sin, you have conquered the darkness, and you have opened the gates of eternal life. We praise you for the hope that will never fade, for the joy that no one can take away, and for the promise that you are with us always. Glory to the Lamb who was slain and now lives forevermore! **Amen.**

Prayer of Adoration

Lord Jesus Christ, We adore you, the living one who was dead and is alive forever. You are the Alpha and the Omega, the bright morning star, the shepherd who calls his sheep by name. On this Easter morning, we bow before your majesty, overwhelmed by your mercy and grace. You left the splendour of heaven to walk among us, you bore our shame upon the cross, and you rose in power to bring us home to the Father. All honour, glory, and blessing belong to you, now and forever. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, on this day of resurrection, we confess that we have not always lived as Easter people. We have allowed fear to silence our witness, doubt to weaken our faith, and selfishness to close our hearts to others. Forgive us for the times we have forgotten the power of the empty tomb. Wash us clean in Your mercy, renew our minds by Your Spirit, and help us to walk in the light of Christ's victory. By Your grace, may we live as people of hope, proclaiming with our words and actions: "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" **Amen.**

Hymn

293 All heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord

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|---|--|
| 1 All heaven declares
the glory of the risen Lord ;
who can compare
with the beauty of the Lord ?
For ever he will be
the Lamb upon the throne ;
I gladly bow the knee,
and worship him alone. | 2 I will proclaim
the glory of the risen Lord,
who once was slain
to reconcile us to God.
For ever you will be
the Lamb upon the throne ;
I gladly bow the knee,
and worship you alone. |
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Noël Richards (b. 1955) and Tricia Richards (b. 1960)

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My husband, Richard, is going to read to us from Matthew's gospel chapter 28, vv 1-10: The risen Jesus meets the women at the tomb, transforming fear into joy and sending them out with good news.

Bible reading²

Matthew 28:1–10

Jesus Rises From the Dead

28 The Sabbath day was now over. It was dawn on the first day of the week. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

² There was a powerful earthquake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven. The angel went to the tomb. He rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His body shone like lightning. His clothes were as white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵ The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here! He has risen, just as he said he would! Come and see the place where he was lying. ⁷ Go quickly! Tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead. He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb. They were afraid, but they were filled with joy. They ran to tell the disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings!" he said. They came to him, took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee. There they will see me."

Reflection

At last, 40 days (plus Sundays, of course!) later, we have reached Easter Day. A day in which to rejoice. Yet Easter morning begins in fear. The women come to the tomb expecting death, not life. The guards are paralysed by fear (v. 4), and even the women – faithful and courageous – leave the tomb with "fear and great joy" (v. 8). But into this fear, the angel speaks: "Do not be afraid" (v. 5). And then Jesus himself repeats it: "Do not be afraid" (v. 10). The resurrection doesn't rub out fear instantly, but it transforms it. Fear is not the end of the story. Joy breaks in.

The many events of Holy Week move us from the fear of uncertainty, the fear of death and of change, into the **joy** of resurrection. It's not a shallow happiness, but a deep, defiant joy rooted in the reality that Christ is risen and nothing – not even death – can separate us from God's love. Some of us especially need to hear that promise today. The whole of this bible passage from Matthew's gospel is rich with movement. The stone is rolled away, the angel descends, the women run, Jesus meets them on the road. Resurrection doesn't stand still, it is not static: it sends us out.

The women become the first apostles, entrusted with the message of life. Their fear is not dismissed, but held within a greater joy. The resurrection is not only about Jesus' victory over death, but about the restoration of all things. Fear doesn't have the final word. The resurrection of Jesus is not just a past event; it's a present reality. It means that even in the face of fear, grief or uncertainty, God is at work bringing life, joy and hope. The risen Christ meets us where we are and sends us out with courage and purpose.

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

Let's sing again

Hymn

309 See, what a morning, gloriously bright, with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem.

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 !

Stuart Townend (b. 1963) and Keith Getty (b. 1974)

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Prayers for all God's people³

I invite you to join in the response in bold type.

The Lord is risen. **He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!**

Risen Lord Jesus, amazing things happened on that first Easter morning. On Friday there was darkness, pain and despair. Suddenly there is light, life and indefinable joy. Lord, as we come to you this morning, bring us to a place of joy and delight as we worship you as the resurrected Lord. The Lord is risen. **He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!**

Risen Lord Jesus, when the two Marys came to the tomb at first light, they came to grieve but were met with amazing good news. We come to you today and bring our sorrows, our sadness, our confusion and pain: we ask that you will meet us in our deepest places with the good news of your presence and comfort. We lift to you all those we know who need your risen, consoling presence right now. Startle them and us with your joy. The Lord is risen. **He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!**

Risen Lord Jesus, those who opposed you on Good Friday thought that they had won. But here, at the entrance to the tomb, they are transfixed by your majesty and glory. We pray for your world, that those who oppose you will see who you truly are and will turn and fall at your feet. We pause now to lift to you any places of conflict and opposition to your will and your ways. We pray that your goodness and life will be resurrected in these places and peace will reign. The Lord is risen. **He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!**

Risen Lord Jesus, as we hear again the good news of your resurrection, give us the courage to tell our friends and family the wonderful news. We think now of those close to us who don't yet know you. Help us to bring the joy of your living presence into our homes, our schools, our places of work and recreation. The Lord is risen. **He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!**

Risen Lord Jesus, the disciples weren't expecting to see you alive again, so when they met you they were filled with fear at first. But you told them not to be afraid. Lord, sometimes we are afraid. Afraid of other people; afraid of our emotions; afraid of certain situations. Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, speak your peace into our deepest fears, we pray. In the stillness, we name them before you and listen for your reassuring presence. The Lord is risen. **He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!**

Risen Lord Jesus, when the Marys met you again they fell at your feet in awe. We praise you for your majesty; your holiness; your otherness; for being so amazing. Yet we also thank you for being our friend. There is no greater friend than you. Help us to stay close and be good friends in return. The Lord is risen. **He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!**

Risen Lord Jesus, thank you. From our deepest being, thank you. **Amen.**

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

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.

I don't think we can have an Easter Day service without our closing hymn

Hymn 313 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 :

3 No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of Life ;
life is naught 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 :

Edmond Budry (1854–1932)

translated by Richard Birch Hoyle (1875–1939)

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Blessing

May the risen Christ fill your soul with joy today. May you live as one who has seen the empty tomb and cannot keep the good news to yourself. Amen. Alleluia!

Acknowledgements

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²New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

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