



## Sunday Worship at Home 17<sup>h</sup> April 2022 Easter Day

### **Opening Prayers:**

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

**He is Risen indeed, Alleluia.**

Lord, direct our thoughts and teach us to pray.

Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Invitation to confession:**

Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Lord Jesus, when you rose from the dead, you defeated evil:

**Lord have mercy**

Lord Jesus, when you rose from the dead, you washed away our sins:

**Christ have mercy.**

Lord, Jesus, when you rose from the dead you set us free:

**Lord have mercy**

May almighty God have mercy upon you,

forgive your sins and bring you to eternal life. Amen

### **The Collect (Special Prayer for the 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

### **Reading: Luke 24: 1-12**

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

### **Reflection on the Reading:**

What's the gospel reading about today? It's not complicated and the answer doesn't take much thinking about – It's about an empty tomb, a hole left where a great big rock had been placed the day before.

What does take some thinking about is; Who moved the rock? The truth is, we don't know, none of Jesus' friends were around at the time they'd all run away, so they can't tell us. One of the Gospels tells us that an angel moved it, but the reality is that no one knew what was going on that first Easter morning.

The emptiness the disciples must have felt by the death of their friend, is mirrored by the emptiness of the tomb. Not only did they no longer have a living Jesus, they didn't even have his dead body. Jesus was not in the tomb, HE HAD RISEN! Live people don't stay in tombs, they get out and, after all Jesus had been through, he wasn't going to let something like a huge rock stop him. That rock is one of the most exciting things about Easter day, we don't know how it moved, but move it did, but the most exciting thing of all about Easter day is that Jesus rose from the dead, just as he said he would. It is the women disciples who first heard the news that Jesus had risen. But this only throws them into greater confusion as they cannot understand what it might mean. The apostles think their whole story is "an idle tale", and that doesn't help their mood, no one likes to be ridiculed or disbelieved. So, for a moment, imagine you were one of the women moving through the garden with a heavy heart at the death of your friend oblivious to the glorious presence of the risen Christ not a stone's throw away; then remember that when you too are weighed down with sorrow or hopelessness, you are no further from Jesus than the women in that dawn garden. We may not have all the answers, but the resurrection is not as the disciples thought, an idle tale. If the resurrection had not taken place our faith would be futile so within the story of the empty tomb is the most exciting message that transforms our world and gives hope to everyone. Amen

### **The Creed:**

We believe in God the Father from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.     **Amen**

### **Be still and Pray:**

Give thanks for the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus, our Messiah and Saviour.

Include the needs of the world, your family and community. Her Majesty the Queen and her family.

All those who mourn the death of a loved one. Those who suffer discrimination & those who are lonely.

Pray for comfort and peace for those who are ill or awaiting hospital appointments and in quiet reflection

pray for those you know in need of God's healing touch at this time, including those who have no one to pray for them.

### **The Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in 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; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever **Amen**

### **Final Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, when you rose from the dead you filled the hearts of your friends with joy, as we share in that joy, may your church and the world be filled with happiness and may we share that joy with all those we meet.

### **Blessing:**

Christ crucified draw you to himself,

to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven;

and the blessing of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and all those you love,

this day and always. **Amen.**

From Reverend Eddie Jenny and myself , we wish you a Happy and Blessed Easter.

Alleluia Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed. Alleluia.

*Reverend Irene*