

Easter Day 2020 6:00am

When warmth breaks through the cold and light comes to the dark places,

CHRIST IS RISEN!

When sadness turns to joy and fear turns to rejoicing

CHRIST IS RISEN!

When we take courage and share the good news

CHRIST IS RISEN!

When the shroud is left behind and the banner of Christ is unfurled

CHRIST IS RISEN!

Christ is risen!

HE IS RISEN INDEED! Alleluia!

StF 297 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.

The cross stands empty to the sky.

Let streets and homes with praises ring.

Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Luke 24:1-12 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

24 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. **2** They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, **3** but when they went in, they did not find the body. **4** While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. **5** 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. **6** Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, **7** that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' **8** Then they remembered his words, **9** and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. **10** Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. **11** But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. **12** 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.

A thought for Easter Day

Prayers of intercession

We greet you, risen Christ – our hope in times of despair.

We pray for those in despair today:

worried about future employment;

worried about where the next meal is coming from;

worried about a relative in isolation.

Turn their despair into resurrection hope.

We greet you, risen Christ – our peace in times of conflict.

We pray for those in conflict today:

for those in war zones in Yemen, Syria,

and other unknown places that never make the news; for those

fleeing war, seeking refuge in Greece

and throughout the world;

for those feeling unsafe in their own homes.

Turn their conflict into resurrection peace.

We greet you, risen Christ – our healing in times of trouble.
We pray for those in any kind of trouble today:
for those who are physically unwell;
for those struggling with their mental health;
for those facing their own mortality and those who care for them;
for those who grieve.

Turn their trouble into your resurrection healing.

We thank you, Lord, that through your sacrifice, you have
triumphed over death,
opening the way to new life for all.
And so we thank you
for all those who bring glimmers of new life: for all care workers;
for our emergency services;
for those willing to work to keep us fed;
for those whose creativity is bringing life
to vulnerable people and in remote places;
for all those who are willing to go the extra mile.

Your resurrection hope is all around us – even now.

Thanks be to you,

Risen, Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

StF 296 Christ has risen while earth slumbers to tune of Scarlet
Ribbons

Christ has risen while earth slumbers,
Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised,
as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;
let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumour.
Christ is risen, God is here!

Christ has risen for the people
whom he loved and died to save;
Christ has risen for the women
bringing flowers to grace his grave
Christ has risen for disciples
huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
is not silenced by the tomb.

Christ has risen to companion
former friends who fear the night,
sensing loss and limitation
where their faith had once burned bright.
They bemoan what is no longer,
they expect no hopeful sign
till Christ ends their conversation,
breaking bread and sharing wine.

Christ has risen and forever
lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen. Christ is present
making us what he has been –
evidence of transformation
in which God is known and seen.

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Blessing

Hallelujah, God our Creator – ***all life stems from you!***
Hallelujah, God our Saviour – ***new life springs from your death!***
Hallelujah, God our Sustainer – ***life is continually renewed in you!***
Hallelujah, Father, Son and Holy Spirit!
Bless us today and always,
may your new life flow through us into your world. ***Amen.***