



# Easter Sunday

## **A Short Reflective Service of Prayer for those at home**

Christ is Risen  
Alleluia Amen!  
God is with us

Around us and within us  
Life and Love are stronger than death.  
Thanks be to God!

### **A Reading from the New Testament**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb.

*John 20, verses 1-2*

**Light your own Easter Candle**  
(please ensure this is done safely)

*Pause for a moment of quiet*



**HAPPY EASTER**

## Pause for Thought

Jesus kept reminding his followers 'On the third day'  
Silently I sometimes want add,  
*'Just you wait and see!'*

Three days - Three Things to reflect on....

EGGS - RAINBOWS - EMPTY TOMB

**First** - EGGS, we are living in strange times where each day merges almost endlessly, at such moments we need some anchors... Traditionally on this day we have given someone a chocolate egg - I HOPE that you have an egg to munch so that just for a moment (as long as the egg lasts!!) we might ponder that this day is different.

**Second** - RAINBOWS, suddenly this timeless bow of beauty amidst the storms of life has found fresh appeal, a symbol of 'Positivity *and* Hope'

As Christians know, the Easter story comes in many parts, In truth OUR story began with creation and our fall from grace. We often look back in life, especially when times are hard - How many times have you heard someone reminisce about the 'Good Old Days?'

In truth, every age has had its challenges, that is why God said, 'When you look at a rainbow, remember me.'

Good Friday of course amplified everything that was 'not' so good about humanity BUT 'on the third day,' Jesus intimated - It will be different.

On the third day we leave behind the darkness's of our humanity and meet with an important truth.

**Thirdly** - THE EMPTY TOMB, on the 'third' day the women went to the tomb, they discovered it was empty for Jesus HAD RISEN, though the women had not understood, why should they?

Amazingly Easter Day draws all these threads together  
TRADITION - POSITIVITY *and* HOPE - NEW HORIZONS

Because God raised Jesus from death to life,  
WE live in the knowledge that God's love CANNOT die -  
NOT on a cross, NOT ever.

Thus Eggs, Rainbows and Empty Tombs have but one thing to say - Always remember to be Happy, Positive and Hopeful in this mortal life for God is with us, he always has been and always will be because God is love and love gives us hope for our tomorrows.

In years ahead, we will look back, we will remember many things - But I pray at this difficult time Easter will give us the courage to look forwards and to believe there will be good times to come. Have a blessed Easter, Terry

*Pause for a moment of quiet*

Bless your people O God,

and let the light of your love shine upon us always.

Peace be with you. AMEN

### **A Call to Prayer**

In the midst of the dead places  
In the heart of doubt and confusion  
WE REMEMBER - CHRIST IS RISEN!

On the ground where the bindings of life lay  
Our grieving, our fears and our loneliness,  
WE REMEMBER - CHRIST IS RISEN!

When our souls wander in lostness, O God  
We stretch out our longing hands towards you,  
WE REMEMBER - CHRIST IS RISEN!

### **Prayers for the World**

Be revealed to us anew this Easter  
Let your love be seen not just in the heavens  
But in the hearts and lives of those around us.

Who will we pray for today? Let us name them.

*(Silently name those we pray for, place a family picture where you can see it)*

Now may this Poem be a prayer for ourselves.

*May YOU be warmed by the glow of my presence*

*Come and melt in the rays of my peace*

*Thy heart shall be lifted with gladness*

*And the tempter's dark arrows will cease*

*Go forth as the child I have made thee*

*With the flower of faith in thy hair.*

*Bring joy to the world as thou goest*

*And shed the  
unfading Light of my Love everywhere.*

Words by Briony Lill

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

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 Prayer

May the air around us touch our faces with gentleness,  
May the ground beneath our feet be like the rock of God's love  
And may the new life and hope of Christ be found in the freedom  
He sets before us.  
Thanks be to God. AMEN

## Blessing

Saviour God,  
may every breath we take be for your glory,  
may every footstep follow the path of your Son.  
strengthen and settle us in our faith;  
that we may be a blessing to the world and to each other,  
now and always. AMEN.

Christ is Risen  
Alleluia Amen!

