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EASTER SUNDAY B

4th April 2021

A short act of worship for use in peoples homes while churches are closed.

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**Methodist Women
in Britain**

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Call to worship

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

This Easter day, we gather to worship, to give thanks, to celebrate life, resurrection, hope and the triumph of all that is good over all that is evil.

Let us join together in celebration!¹

Hymn: 313 STF – Thine be the glory - [YouTube](#)

Opening Prayers

Christ has risen
He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

He lives for ever
Alleluia!

Lord Jesus Christ, we can only begin to imagine the wonder and relief in Mary's eyes as she met your living presence in the Garden on that first Easter morning, and ran to share the Good News with the other disciples.

We, too, want to feel that excitement as we celebrate that Jesus who was dead is alive, that good is stronger than evil, that love is stronger than hatred, that life is stronger than death and that you Lord are with us to the end of time. On this day of light and gladness we come to worship you.

As we look at the cross – we see that it points upwards to our Creator God, downwards to men, but it points outwards too. Holy Spirit help us to express our worship in your world today by reaching out to others, by reflecting Jesus' compassion and by sharing God's amazing love in all the ways we can.

And as we draw nearer to you in worship, our Living Lord, we want to say sorry for all the times we forget or ignore your living presence with us. For those times when we allow our own selfish wants to dominate our thoughts and rule our lives. For all those times we have been uncaring and unwilling to forgive others, Lord, please forgive us.

Hear God's words of love and mercy, your sins are forgiven.

The Lord hears our prayer, Thanks be to God.

Amen.²

Let us now say the Lord's Prayer

¹ Call to Worship written by Tim Baker

² Opening prayers written by Diane Robinson

Readings: Acts 10:34-43 - [Click for Reading](#)

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 - [Click for Reading](#)

John 20:1-18 - [Click for Reading](#)

Reflections on the Readings

On this Easter Sunday, let's listen to this piece of Spoken Word poetry, written by Revd James Morley, a co-superintendent of the Sheffield Circuit.

[You might also like to use the video version of this poem by downloading [The Vine Video for this week](#) - [Click here](#)]

Here, with my broken heart.
All has fallen apart.
In the silence, and the dark,
Is this maybe,
Where it starts?

I walk in desolation,
Scarred by life's devastation.
Am I simply seeking some consolation?
I guess it's open to interpretation.

It's a mystery.
For it should not be.
Is it confusion,
Or collusion?
Is your faith just to make you feel safe?
Is my doubt just my lack of faith?

Dare I believe in what I did not ought,
That which defies all rational thought?
Found and lost.
What I was looking for.
Hope cast adrift so far from the shore.

Jesus wept.
And I am weeping.
But a voice comes softly, seeking
And dawn comes quietly, creeping,
Into my mind, my heart, my soul.

What is broken might be made whole.

Yet that's that still small voice again,
Affirming I am known and named,

That everything's different, yet everything has changed.
And yet the song, it still remains the same.

The song.
For the song, it is love.

I'd hold onto it, if I could,
But it needs to be shared,
And joined in with,
And heard.
Sung loud, in actions sweeter than a thousand words.

For now, for all,
A different future has unfurled.
So, despite all the world denies,
Despite all the pain and the lies,
Even though some things must die,
Through heaven's eyes,
I realise
That I can rise.³

[There is now some space for you to reflect and respond, on this Easter Sunday.]

You may find these questions helpful, or you may choose to bring your own reflections on the last 12 months, the experience of travelling through Lent, and what resurrection means to you this Easter Sunday.

- How do you respond to this poem?
- How does the resurrection story make you 'feel'?
- What are the things that need to rise from the tombs, graves and abandoned places of this last year?
- Where are you seeking little 'resurrections' around you at the moment?

[Once you have had time to reflect on these questions and perhaps discuss them in groups, you could close with this prayer.]

Easter God, you bring new life into our world of darkness and grief.
Easter God, the stories of Jesus that we have inherited show us the awesome truth about resurrection and hope springing up in difficult times.
Easter God, your Spirit is at work in amongst us this day. Help us to listen to Her guiding, Her prompting, Her inspiration.
May we be your Easter people this day, this week, and forevermore.

Amen.

³ Reflection written by James Morley

Prayers of Intercession

God of the resurrection,
As darkness fell, Your love shone through.
We pray that this same light might shine in the darkness around the world.

God of the resurrection,
As blood was poured out at the Cross,
We pray for the blood poured out due to war, may the love of the Cross bring healing and unity.

God of the resurrection,
As the empty tomb represents freedom,
We pray for those struggling with addiction and mental illness in our community. May the freedom found at the tomb be a lived reality for those struggling today.

God of the resurrection,
As Mary found the tomb empty and voiced the news,
We pray for women who face oppression and are unable to use their voice.

God of the resurrection
As Mary wept, we weep for those who grieve lost ones due to Covid-19 and other diseases. Surround them with your peace and love this day.

God of the resurrection,
May we be a resurrection people,
May we leave this place and say 'I have seen the Lord'.

Amen.⁴

Hymn: 167 STF – Colours of day - [YouTube](#)

Blessing

Go out from here, you people of the resurrection.

Keep the story alive – and may the miracle of new life be one you know, and live and share.

Go, as the Spirit of God goes with you.

Amen.⁵

⁴ Prayers of intercession written by Matt Forsyth

⁵ Taken from Gathering Prayers for Remembrance Sunday by Christine Dutton