



Morning Worship (and Spiritual Communion)

This Easter is different. Some thoughts before we begin our worship from Chris Bryan.

I've been a priest now for nearly sixty years, and during the whole of that time this is the strangest Easter I've known.

I'm told it's the church's job to give hope, and no doubt it is. But hope for what? For a return to that "normalcy" whose apparent security is always an illusion?

'I said to my soul, be still, and wait without hope
For hope would be hope for the wrong thing; wait without love,
For love would be love of the wrong thing; there is yet faith
But the faith and the love and the hope are all in the waiting'

T. S. Eliot (1) wrote those words in 1940, a year in which Great Britain was subject to an aerial bombardment that left people with very few certainties—not the certainty that the houses they lived in would be standing tomorrow, nor even the certainty that they themselves would still be alive.

As that uncertainty loomed, King George VI in his Christmas broadcast to the nation quoted a poem that had been shown him by his thirteen-year old daughter Princess Elizabeth:

'And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."
And he replied:
"Go out into the darkness and put your hand in the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.
And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.' (2)

The darkness in which we find ourselves, the darkness of Holy Week and the darkness of pandemic, are real. Let us not deceive ourselves about that. But darkness has never overcome the light and darkness and death do not have the last word.

Hallelujah! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! The last word is and forever will be Christ's and it is a word of grace: Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Christopher Bryan

- 1) T. S. Eliot, "East Coker" in Four Quartets.
- 2) Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957) "God Knows" in The Desert (1908).

Opening Sentences

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Charles Edwards reminded me that most of the world has no idea who has risen. But we do, so we can joyfully make this affirmation.

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
you 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.

If you have an Easter Candle now is the time to light it, saying:

Jesus Christ is the light of the world;
A light no darkness can quench.

Jesus says: I am the resurrection and the life.
You break the power of sin and death.

Silence is kept.

You might now like to access the website below for an organ and choral version of 'The Day of Resurrection', sung to a different tune to normal.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OlQ6cKAghdo>

Confession

Gracious Father,
you sent your Son to die and rise to new life
in order that death might be brought to an end
and that we might live a new life in Him.

Yet we confess that we too often have chosen to remain
captive to doubt and fear and ways that lead to death.
By our thoughts, words, and actions,
we have scorned your love,
diminished the lives of others,
and defaced your image in us.

Father,
forgive us for Jesus' sake,
and enable us by His resurrection power
to live no longer for ourselves
but for Him who died and rose again for us. Amen.

Forgiveness

We need not dwell on our wounds any longer
for he has risen to heal us,
he has risen to forgive us;
he has risen to change us all and bind us together now.
Christ has risen to forgive us.
Thanks be to God.

Reading and reflection

Mark 16:1-8 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The Resurrection of Jesus

16 When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had

risen, they went to the tomb. ³ They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” ⁴ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶ But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” ⁸ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid

A reflection of the Gospel reading by Chris Southgate

Meditation for Easter in the midst of the coronavirus crisis

St Mark ends his Gospel with the response of the women who went to the tomb on the first Easter Sunday:

‘They went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid’ (16.8).

This Easter will dawn for many people in a place not of triumph, but of fear. The resurrection accounts have been described as a reverse-grieving process, in which the witnesses gradually come to realise that the one who was lost is alive, and breathes on us the Holy Spirit. Anger is dispelled, depression and denial and bargaining can all be set aside. But I suggest that for many of us, this Easter, we are not far along this process yet. We would like to have the larger story, the story of victory over death, this Easter 2020, to be able to sing it out to the sunrise with our hearts on fire. But our heroes this Easter morning should be those women, Mark’s only witnesses to the resurrection.

Mark is telling us in effect that where we are in our confusion and fear is a valid place to be. It’s even a holy place to be, because it is real. The larger story will emerge – it is in the hands of the God who has done something extraordinary at the empty tomb. We are in a process of searching for this larger story, the one that will enfold and hold all the losses of this time, including the loss of freedom to map out futures, of the power to fix things, the loss of the delight of gathering, and of the profundity of looking closely into

others' eyes, the loss of reassuring and healing touch, for some the loss of parents or grandparents we shall never see again, in this life at least.

This is an Easter for holding together - by phone-call or Skype or Zoom or Tik-tok or even that most precious of rediscoveries, the letter – the range of reactions we're all having, the different varieties of fear and confusion and amazement we're facing. We have the Lord's songs to sing in this strange land, the great Passiontide song of love unknown, the Easter hope of Jesus Christ the apple tree, but let us sing them not with a false and self-forgetting triumphalism, but as explorers who will help each other search for the larger story of all this, owning our fear, sharing our wisdom as it returns to us, hoping for what we do not yet see.

The women half-ran, half-stumbled away from the tomb, carrying the greatest secret in the history of the world. And Christians this year are bearers of a secret we may not feel we are even ready to tell, but yet is our clue to the larger story within which all this trauma will one day be seen to sit.

Christopher Southgate, University of Exeter

Alternative collect for Easter Sunday

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.

You may now like to access the hymn 'Now the green blade rises', sung by the choir of Ely Cathedral.



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Prayer for Others

Let us pray to God,
who alone makes us dwell in safety:
For all who are affected by coronavirus,
through illness or isolation or anxiety,
that they may find relief and recovery:

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,
and shaping national policies,
that they may make wise decisions:

Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,
that through their skill and insights
many will be restored to health:

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful,
for the gravely ill and the dying,
that they may know your comfort and peace:

Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

*Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer



A short Spiritual Communion

The Book of Common Prayer reminds us that if we offer ourselves in penitence and faith, giving thanks for the redemption won by Christ crucified, we may truly 'eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ', even when we cannot receive the sacrament physically in ourselves.

You may wish to say or pray

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please right click on this link and click on 'open hyperlink ' to visit this website
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-LHFy40z78&list=PLgBLixTy9an5vFHc6c8zRysV489e5h92Q&index=7&t=0s>

_where you will hear the Lapford Singers sing 'Christ is Risen from the Dead' set to music by Nigel and conducted by him. Thanks to Nigel for this.

Giving thanks for Christ's death and resurrection you may wish to say

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.
(after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester)

The Conclusion

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us;
The Lord look kindly upon us and give us peace. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

John 14:27

Scroll to next page for this Sunday evening

This Sunday Evening

Churches Together in Devon in common with Churches Together throughout England are asking that at 7pm each Sunday evening, you light a candle in the windows of your home as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.

Night Prayer



*If you are able to do so, you might wish to light a candle near a window.
As you do so you may say:*

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ was raised gloriously from the dead, crushing the power of sin and destroying the sting of death. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the mighty power of God as Christ calls us out of darkness to share in his marvellous light.

May we, and all Christ's people, shine as lights in the world to the glory of God the Father.

Opening prayer:

Come, O Spirit of God,
and make within us your dwelling place and home.
May our darkness be dispelled by your light,
and our troubles calmed by your peace;
may all evil be redeemed by your love,
all pain transformed through the suffering of Christ,
and all dying glorified in his risen life. Amen.

Verses from Psalm 104

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

You are clothed with majesty and honour,
wrapped in light as in a garment.

The sun knows the time for its setting.

You make darkness that it may be night.

Bless the Lord, O my soul

O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

O Lord, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all;

the earth is full of your creatures.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;

may the Lord rejoice in his works;

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

I will make music to my God while I have my being.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

A short reading from Romans 6: 9-11.

Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:
death has no more dominion over him.

In dying he died to sin once for all:

in living he lives to God.

See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for the nation, for those in need, and for those close to you.

Let us pray to the Lord, who is our refuge and stronghold.

For the health and well-being of our nation, that all who are fearful and anxious may be at peace and free from worry:

Lord, hear us, Lord, graciously hear us.

For the isolated and housebound, that we may be alert to their needs, and care for them in their vulnerability:

Lord, hear us, Lord, graciously hear us.

For our homes and families, our schools and young people, and all in any kind of need or distress:

Lord, hear us, Lord, graciously hear us.

For a blessing on our local community, that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and friendship, where all are known and cared for:

Lord, hear us, Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Conclusion

God our Father, by whose mercy
the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light:
we place in your hands our unfinished tasks,
our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes,
knowing that only what you bless will prosper.
To your love and protection
we commit each other and all those we love,
knowing that you alone are our sure defender,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen





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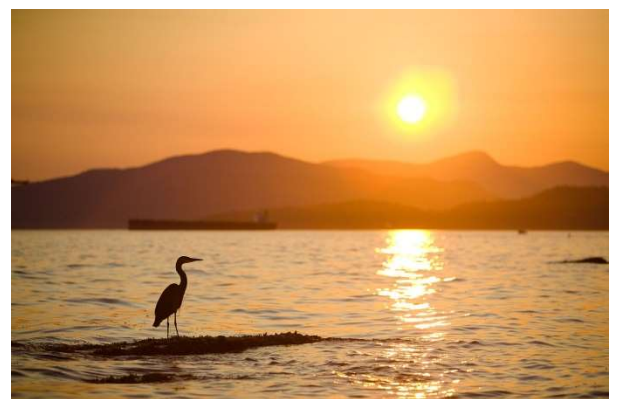
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Charles Edwards reminded me that most of the world has no idea who has risen. But we do, so we can joyfully make this affirmation.

God of glory,
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If you have an Easter Candle now is the time to light it, saying:

Jesus Christ is the light of the world;
A light no darkness can quench.

Jesus says: I am the resurrection and the life.
You break the power of sin and death.

Silence is kept.

You might now like to access the website below for an organ and choral version of 'The Day of Resurrection', sung to a different tune to normal.

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Confession

Gracious Father,
you sent your Son to die and rise to new life
in order that death might be brought to an end
and that we might live a new life in Him.

Yet we confess that we too often have chosen to remain
captive to doubt and fear and ways that lead to death.
By our thoughts, words, and actions,
we have scorned your love,
diminished the lives of others,
and defaced your image in us.

Father,
forgive us for Jesus' sake,
and enable us by His resurrection power
to live no longer for ourselves
but for Him who died and rose again for us. Amen.

Forgiveness

We need not dwell on our wounds any longer
for he has risen to heal us,
he has risen to forgive us;
he has risen to change us all and bind us together now.
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16 When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had

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Mark is telling us in effect that where we are in our confusion and fear is a valid place to be. It’s even a holy place to be, because it is real. The larger story will emerge – it is in the hands of the God who has done something extraordinary at the empty tomb. We are in a process of searching for this larger story, the one that will enfold and hold all the losses of this time, including the loss of freedom to map out futures, of the power to fix things, the loss of the delight of gathering, and of the profundity of looking closely into

others' eyes, the loss of reassuring and healing touch, for some the loss of parents or grandparents we shall never see again, in this life at least.

This is an Easter for holding together - by phone-call or Skype or Zoom or Tik-tok or even that most precious of rediscoveries, the letter – the range of reactions we're all having, the different varieties of fear and confusion and amazement we're facing. We have the Lord's songs to sing in this strange land, the great Passiontide song of love unknown, the Easter hope of Jesus Christ the apple tree, but let us sing them not with a false and self-forgetting triumphalism, but as explorers who will help each other search for the larger story of all this, owning our fear, sharing our wisdom as it returns to us, hoping for what we do not yet see.

The women half-ran, half-stumbled away from the tomb, carrying the greatest secret in the history of the world. And Christians this year are bearers of a secret we may not feel we are even ready to tell, but yet is our clue to the larger story within which all this trauma will one day be seen to sit.

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Prayer for Others

Let us pray to God,
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For all who are affected by coronavirus,
through illness or isolation or anxiety,
that they may find relief and recovery:

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,
and shaping national policies,
that they may make wise decisions:

Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,
that through their skill and insights
many will be restored to health:

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful,
for the gravely ill and the dying,
that they may know your comfort and peace:

Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

*Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer



A short Spiritual Communion

The Book of Common Prayer reminds us that if we offer ourselves in penitence and faith, giving thanks for the redemption won by Christ crucified, we may truly 'eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ', even when we cannot receive the sacrament physically in ourselves.

You may wish to say or pray

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Giving thanks for Christ's death and resurrection you may wish to say

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.
(after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester)

The Conclusion

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us;
The Lord look kindly upon us and give us peace. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

John 14:27

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This Sunday Evening

Churches Together in Devon in common with Churches Together throughout England are asking that at 7pm each Sunday evening, you light a candle in the windows of your home as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.

Night Prayer



*If you are able to do so, you might wish to light a candle near a window.
As you do so you may say:*

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ was raised gloriously from the dead, crushing the power of sin and destroying the sting of death. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the mighty power of God as Christ calls us out of darkness to share in his marvellous light.

May we, and all Christ's people, shine as lights in the world to the glory of God the Father.

Opening prayer:

Come, O Spirit of God,
and make within us your dwelling place and home.
May our darkness be dispelled by your light,
and our troubles calmed by your peace;
may all evil be redeemed by your love,
all pain transformed through the suffering of Christ,
and all dying glorified in his risen life. Amen.

Verses from Psalm 104

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

You are clothed with majesty and honour,
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The sun knows the time for its setting.

You make darkness that it may be night.

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O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

O Lord, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all;

the earth is full of your creatures.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;

may the Lord rejoice in his works;

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

I will make music to my God while I have my being.

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A short reading from Romans 6: 9-11.

Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:
death has no more dominion over him.

In dying he died to sin once for all:

in living he lives to God.

See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for the nation, for those in need, and for those close to you.

Let us pray to the Lord, who is our refuge and stronghold.

For the health and well-being of our nation, that all who are fearful and anxious may be at peace and free from worry:

Lord, hear us, Lord, graciously hear us.

For the isolated and housebound, that we may be alert to their needs, and care for them in their vulnerability:

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For our homes and families, our schools and young people, and all in any kind of need or distress:

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For a blessing on our local community, that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and friendship, where all are known and cared for:

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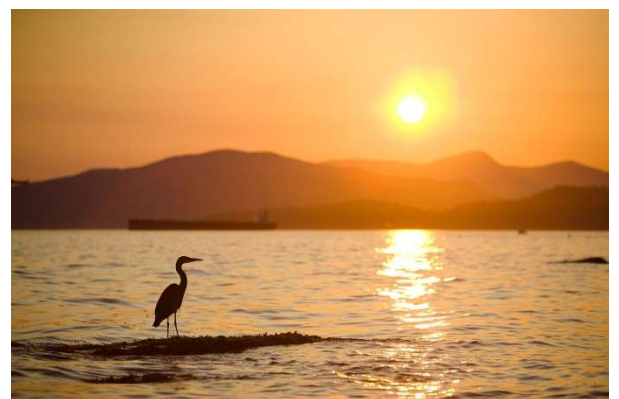
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God our Father, by whose mercy
the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light:
we place in your hands our unfinished tasks,
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knowing that only what you bless will prosper.
To your love and protection
we commit each other and all those we love,
knowing that you alone are our sure defender,
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Amen





Morning Worship (and Spiritual Communion)

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I've been a priest now for nearly sixty years, and during the whole of that time this is the strangest Easter I've known.

I'm told it's the church's job to give hope, and no doubt it is. But hope for what? For a return to that "normalcy" whose apparent security is always an illusion?

'I said to my soul, be still, and wait without hope
For hope would be hope for the wrong thing; wait without love,
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But the faith and the love and the hope are all in the waiting'

T. S. Eliot (1) wrote those words in 1940, a year in which Great Britain was subject to an aerial bombardment that left people with very few certainties—not the certainty that the houses they lived in would be standing tomorrow, nor even the certainty that they themselves would still be alive.

As that uncertainty loomed, King George VI in his Christmas broadcast to the nation quoted a poem that had been shown him by his thirteen-year old daughter Princess Elizabeth:

'And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
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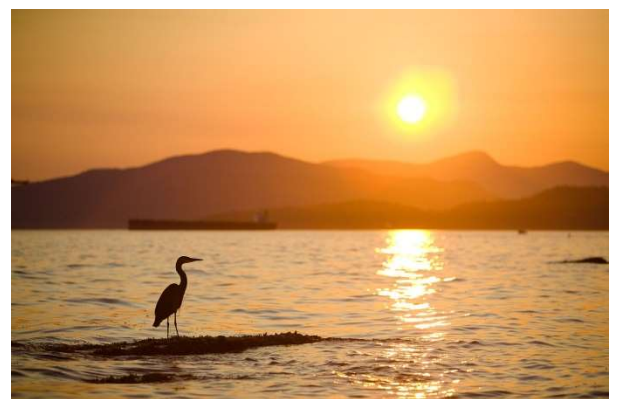
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Confession

Gracious Father,
you sent your Son to die and rise to new life
in order that death might be brought to an end
and that we might live a new life in Him.

Yet we confess that we too often have chosen to remain
captive to doubt and fear and ways that lead to death.
By our thoughts, words, and actions,
we have scorned your love,
diminished the lives of others,
and defaced your image in us.

Father,
forgive us for Jesus' sake,
and enable us by His resurrection power
to live no longer for ourselves
but for Him who died and rose again for us. Amen.

Forgiveness

We need not dwell on our wounds any longer
for he has risen to heal us,
he has risen to forgive us;
he has risen to change us all and bind us together now.
Christ has risen to forgive us.
Thanks be to God.

Reading and reflection

Mark 16:1-8 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

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16 When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had

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St Mark ends his Gospel with the response of the women who went to the tomb on the first Easter Sunday:

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This Easter will dawn for many people in a place not of triumph, but of fear. The resurrection accounts have been described as a reverse-grieving process, in which the witnesses gradually come to realise that the one who was lost is alive, and breathes on us the Holy Spirit. Anger is dispelled, depression and denial and bargaining can all be set aside. But I suggest that for many of us, this Easter, we are not far along this process yet. We would like to have the larger story, the story of victory over death, this Easter 2020, to be able to sing it out to the sunrise with our hearts on fire. But our heroes this Easter morning should be those women, Mark’s only witnesses to the resurrection.

Mark is telling us in effect that where we are in our confusion and fear is a valid place to be. It’s even a holy place to be, because it is real. The larger story will emerge – it is in the hands of the God who has done something extraordinary at the empty tomb. We are in a process of searching for this larger story, the one that will enfold and hold all the losses of this time, including the loss of freedom to map out futures, of the power to fix things, the loss of the delight of gathering, and of the profundity of looking closely into

others' eyes, the loss of reassuring and healing touch, for some the loss of parents or grandparents we shall never see again, in this life at least.

This is an Easter for holding together - by phone-call or Skype or Zoom or Tik-tok or even that most precious of rediscoveries, the letter – the range of reactions we're all having, the different varieties of fear and confusion and amazement we're facing. We have the Lord's songs to sing in this strange land, the great Passiontide song of love unknown, the Easter hope of Jesus Christ the apple tree, but let us sing them not with a false and self-forgetting triumphalism, but as explorers who will help each other search for the larger story of all this, owning our fear, sharing our wisdom as it returns to us, hoping for what we do not yet see.

The women half-ran, half-stumbled away from the tomb, carrying the greatest secret in the history of the world. And Christians this year are bearers of a secret we may not feel we are even ready to tell, but yet is our clue to the larger story within which all this trauma will one day be seen to sit.

Christopher Southgate, University of Exeter

Alternative collect for Easter Sunday

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.

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Prayer for Others

Let us pray to God,
who alone makes us dwell in safety:
For all who are affected by coronavirus,
through illness or isolation or anxiety,
that they may find relief and recovery:

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,
and shaping national policies,
that they may make wise decisions:

Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,
that through their skill and insights
many will be restored to health:

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful,
for the gravely ill and the dying,
that they may know your comfort and peace:

Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

*Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer



A short Spiritual Communion

The Book of Common Prayer reminds us that if we offer ourselves in penitence and faith, giving thanks for the redemption won by Christ crucified, we may truly 'eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ', even when we cannot receive the sacrament physically in ourselves.

You may wish to say or pray

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please right click on this link and click on 'open hyperlink' to visit this website
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-LHFy40z78&list=PLgBLixTy9an5vFHc6c8zRysV489e5h92Q&index=7&t=0s>

_where you will hear the Lapford Singers sing 'Christ is Risen from the Dead' set to music by Nigel and conducted by him. Thanks to Nigel for this.

Giving thanks for Christ's death and resurrection you may wish to say

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.
(after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester)

The Conclusion

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us;
The Lord look kindly upon us and give us peace. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

John 14:27

Scroll to next page for this Sunday evening

This Sunday Evening

Churches Together in Devon in common with Churches Together throughout England are asking that at 7pm each Sunday evening, you light a candle in the windows of your home as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.

Night Prayer



*If you are able to do so, you might wish to light a candle near a window.
As you do so you may say:*

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ was raised gloriously from the dead, crushing the power of sin and destroying the sting of death. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the mighty power of God as Christ calls us out of darkness to share in his marvellous light.

May we, and all Christ's people, shine as lights in the world to the glory of God the Father.

Opening prayer:

Come, O Spirit of God,
and make within us your dwelling place and home.
May our darkness be dispelled by your light,
and our troubles calmed by your peace;
may all evil be redeemed by your love,
all pain transformed through the suffering of Christ,
and all dying glorified in his risen life. Amen.

Verses from Psalm 104

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

You are clothed with majesty and honour,
wrapped in light as in a garment.

The sun knows the time for its setting.

You make darkness that it may be night.

Bless the Lord, O my soul

O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

O Lord, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all;

the earth is full of your creatures.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;

may the Lord rejoice in his works;

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

I will make music to my God while I have my being.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

A short reading from Romans 6: 9-11.

Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:
death has no more dominion over him.

In dying he died to sin once for all:

in living he lives to God.

See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for the nation, for those in need, and for those close to you.

Let us pray to the Lord, who is our refuge and stronghold.

For the health and well-being of our nation, that all who are fearful and anxious may be at peace and free from worry:

Lord, hear us, Lord, graciously hear us.

For the isolated and housebound, that we may be alert to their needs, and care for them in their vulnerability:

Lord, hear us, Lord, graciously hear us.

For our homes and families, our schools and young people, and all in any kind of need or distress:

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For a blessing on our local community, that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and friendship, where all are known and cared for:

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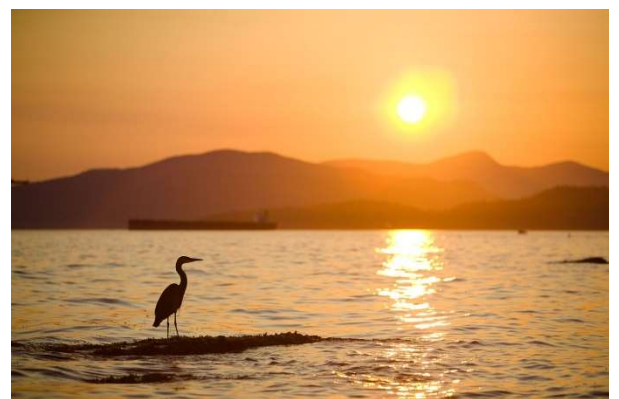
We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Conclusion

God our Father, by whose mercy
the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light:
we place in your hands our unfinished tasks,
our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes,
knowing that only what you bless will prosper.
To your love and protection
we commit each other and all those we love,
knowing that you alone are our sure defender,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen





Morning Worship (and Spiritual Communion)

This Easter is different. Some thoughts before we begin our worship from Chris Bryan.

I've been a priest now for nearly sixty years, and during the whole of that time this is the strangest Easter I've known.

I'm told it's the church's job to give hope, and no doubt it is. But hope for what? For a return to that "normalcy" whose apparent security is always an illusion?

'I said to my soul, be still, and wait without hope
For hope would be hope for the wrong thing; wait without love,
For love would be love of the wrong thing; there is yet faith
But the faith and the love and the hope are all in the waiting'

T. S. Eliot (1) wrote those words in 1940, a year in which Great Britain was subject to an aerial bombardment that left people with very few certainties—not the certainty that the houses they lived in would be standing tomorrow, nor even the certainty that they themselves would still be alive.

As that uncertainty loomed, King George VI in his Christmas broadcast to the nation quoted a poem that had been shown him by his thirteen-year old daughter Princess Elizabeth:

'And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."
And he replied:
"Go out into the darkness and put your hand in the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.
And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.' (2)

The darkness in which we find ourselves, the darkness of Holy Week and the darkness of pandemic, are real. Let us not deceive ourselves about that. But darkness has never overcome the light and darkness and death do not have the last word.

Hallelujah! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! The last word is and forever will be Christ's and it is a word of grace: Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Christopher Bryan

- 1) T. S. Eliot, "East Coker" in Four Quartets.
- 2) Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957) "God Knows" in The Desert (1908).

Opening Sentences

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Charles Edwards reminded me that most of the world has no idea who has risen. But we do, so we can joyfully make this affirmation.

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
you 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.

If you have an Easter Candle now is the time to light it, saying:

Jesus Christ is the light of the world;
A light no darkness can quench.

Jesus says: I am the resurrection and the life.
You break the power of sin and death.

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