

Teddington Circuit Worship at Home – EASTER SUNDAY!

Sunday 12th April 2020

This short act of **Easter worship** has been produced for you at this time when we are unable to attend church. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you. With thanks to the David Innes, Joyce Pegg, Robert Mortimer and the Connexional team for the content.

Call to Worship:

At the crack of dawn, a sudden sliver of light
We gather, drawn by a glimmer of promise.
With the crack of the earth, breaking up an old world
We gather with the hope of change
In the sudden crack of lightning,
We gather in awe, at the mystery revealed before us
We gather together
with cracked and breaking hearts;
the Word of life powers through
And we are filled with great joy
Alleluia! Christ is risen, he is risen indeed, alleluia!

Hymn: Christ the Lord is Risen today (Singing the Faith 298)

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to this version by Maddy Prior & the Carnival Band here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XdL4j8NKmUg>

- 1 Christ the Lord is risen today; Alleluia!**
All creation joins to say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia!
Sing, you heavens; let earth, reply: Alleluia!
- 2 Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!**
Fought the fight, the battle won; Alleluia!
Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Alleluia!
Christ has burst the gates of hell: Alleluia!
- 3 Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia!**
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save; Alleluia!
Where's your victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!
- 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!**
Following our exalted Head; Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise; Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies: Alleluia!
- 5 King of Glory! Soul of bliss! Alleluia!**
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!
You to know, your power to prove, Alleluia!
Thus to sing, and thus to love; Alleluia!

Let us pray together

Creator God, powerful beyond our imagination
who gathered light into the sunrise of the first day,
and called our world into life
We worship you.
Liberating God, reassuring the least of us
Who, at sunrise on the first Easter morning, called
Christ from the grave
We worship you.
Holy Spirit, greeting us with warmth,
Who on this morning and every morning,
Calls us, your people into being.
We worship you
Living God
We praise you for the good news of Easter
For hope, joy and new life.
Help us to be confident and trust in your voice
calling us into the light of a new creation.
Amen

God of good news
We are sorry that we let you down in so many ways
We prefer to look back at what has passed rather than
face the future
When things don't go our way we lose hope and begin
to doubt
We look but don't see, we listen but don't hear
and we are reluctant to tell your story
Forgive us

God of good news
You set us free in the risen Christ
Lead us by your loving hand
Amen

Hot Cross Buns (Get a Hot Cross bun if you have one, look, hold and eat it during this reflection)

How many hot cross buns have you eaten recently?
They are traditional fare for Easter but in the old days they were a treat for the end of Lent to be eaten on Good Friday.

There is a thought that these buns remind us of the story of Holy week and not just Good Friday. Bread of course, was broken shared and eaten at the Last Supper. Hot cross buns would seem to be designed for sharing in quarters! Then there's the cross which reminds us of the way Jesus died. And they are spiced – spices, probably not the ones in the bread played a part death of Jesus.

But the problem is that bread at Passover is flat, unleavened bread not a doughy sweet, fruity bread roll. Maybe there's more of the Easter story in the hot cross bun. The bread has to rise and although the baker doesn't leave it for as long as 3days, it is still left to prove before baking. The roll is round, reminiscent of the stone which rolls away. And that sweetness and fruit? A reminder of good things yet to come.

It may not be an accurate, but it's one way of thinking about Easter as you enjoy your hot cross bun.

Read Today's Gospel Reading: John 20:1-18

An Easter Reflection – Robert Mortimer

I was planned to take the Easter Sunday morning service at Teddington and I thought I would share with you some thoughts. It is a real privilege to lead worship on Easter Day, but in January when the Plan was made I did not think anything about the corona virus or the massive changes to all our lives. Although Margaret was not on great form, we had some good times last year and I did not really consider the possibility that her life would end quite so soon.

The key word at the moment is '**Hope**' and I was thinking what did Mary hope for in the early morning chill as she went to the tomb. Did she hope that there would be no Roman Centurions guarding the tomb? Did she hope that somehow the bolder to close the tomb might not yet be in place or there might be a gap between the tomb and the bolder at the entrance past which she could squeeze? Did she hope to have a few moments quietly by herself to embalm the body of Jesus, the final act for the man she had come to admire and yes love? He had given His life for her, what could she do for Him. We are familiar with the words of 1 Corinthians 13, '**faith, hope and love.**' Easter Sunday is indeed at the very heart of our faith, that God so loved the world that He gave His only son that whoever believes in Him may not die but have eternal life. That eternity of peace is where I hope and pray may be where Margaret is now. The last hymn she sung at the Hospital Chapel service the

afternoon before she died was 'Be Thou my vision ...'and in the last verse – 'O grant me its joys after victory is won.'

I have been overwhelmed by the love shown to me since Margaret died, not least the messages in over 160 cards, as well as letters and emails, which fill our house. My thanks to all who have sent cards and messages of love and support and all those who have been in contact with me.

The need of so many in our community for support and help as result of the corona virus have resulted in an outpouring of love and not least admiration for the work of the NHS staff. It is my prayer this Easter that, more than ever before, we walk with Mary in the garden on Easter Sunday morning and, as each of us hears Jesus calling us by name, we respond knowing that He died for us and in **faith** He gives us the keys to His eternal kingdom. I pray too that we may learn to **love** one another in a new and meaningful way, but above all that in the relationships built and the tasks we undertake, we find a new **hope** for all our lives beyond the horrors of the corona virus and find deeper, loving relationship within community, friends and family.

Time to Reflect

As you came to worship today, what were you expecting...

... to find comfort from hearing the familiar story again

... to remember good times when we were able to meet together as a church

... to offer something back to God for his goodness and mercy to you

... to meet with Jesus afresh and continue your journey with him.

Take time to be with Jesus now and invite him to lead you from this moment, beyond the current crisis, to a hopeful future ahead

Take a time to sit quietly and listen to this Taize chant:

Bless the Lord My Soul

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IC2XWBxktk>

Prayers for Others

Father, we pray for all affected by the coronavirus. We pray especially for those working in the front line in hospitals and for carers in the community. We pray for our Prime Minister and all who are ill with the virus for that they may find healing and wholeness. May the government have wisdom in the decisions that have to be taken and may the new Leader of the Opposition be able to offer constructive advice.

This week, we pray for Malawi which was one of the last countries to have a coronavirus case and had its first death on Tuesday. We pray for the leaders to have wisdom and humility as they help the country to respond. We pray too for the church in Malawi that it may have the resources that it needs.

We give thanks for Hampton's Insights Bible Study and pray that we would all listen carefully for God's voice through scripture and be ready to respond to his call.

We give thanks for those who have gone before us, especially for Margaret Mortimer and John Salmon, for their faithfulness in the tasks to which you called them. Bring us with them to the joy of your perfect kingdom. We pray for their families. May they and we know the real hope and faith and love that only you can give.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

Our Father

Hymn: Thine be the Glory Singing the Faith 313

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPjTfw4a2ZE>

**1 Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay:
Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.**

**2 Lo, Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth,
death hath lost its sting:**

**3 No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of Life;
life is naught without thee:
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above:**

Edmond Budry (1854-1932)
translated by Richard Birch Hoyle (1875-1939)
Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 313

A prayer of blessing

May you know life rising from the death,
May you know hope rising from the pain,
May you know light rising from the darkness,
May you know and live love,
May you know and live the life you are gifted. Amen

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