



Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

Sunday 4th April 2021, Resurrection (Easter) Sunday
Prepared by Rev'd Phillip Dixon

The tomb is empty, death, decay and sin is defeated. Victory is achieved and we are offered our part in that victory, "it is finished", mission accomplished! This written worship has been prepared for you to use as we celebrate the glorious truth that Christ suffered and died the death that we deserve and that his resurrection to new life provides the way for us to follow. This is the Christian message; the cross of Christ provides release from the bondage of sin and the offer of a new, transformed life. Let us embrace it and celebrate like never before!

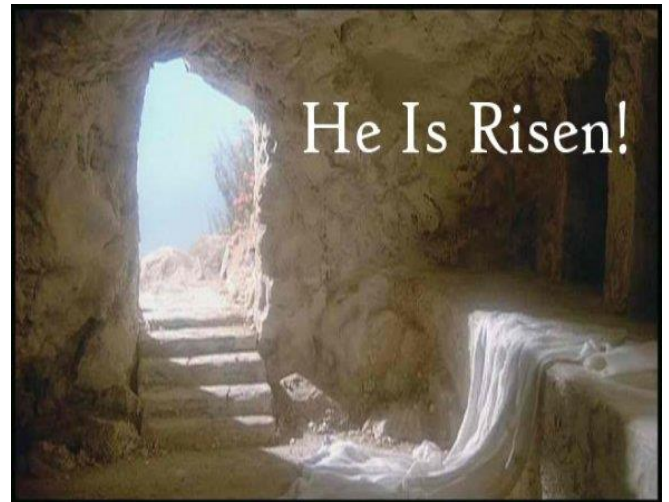
Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn: StF 309 See what a morning (the Resurrection Hymn).

Sing/read /pray /proclaim the words
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJrUEVKGXTQ>

See what a morning, gloriously bright,
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
Folded the graveclothes,
Tomb filled with light,
As the angels announce Christ is risen!
See God's salvation plan, wrought in love, Borne
in pain, paid in sacrifice,
Fulfilled in Christ, the Man, for He lives:
Christ is risen from the dead!

See Mary weeping, 'Where is He laid?'
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name;
It's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!
The voice that spans the years,
Speaking life, stirring hope,
Bringing peace to us,
Will sound till He appears,
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!



One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
Through the Spirit
Who clothes faith with certainty,
Honour and blessing, glory and praise
To the King crowned
With power and authority!

And we are raised with Him,
Death is dead, love has won,
Christ has conquered;
And we shall reign with Him,
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead! Stuart
Townend (1963 and Keith Getty (1974)

Opening Prayers:

Glory to you, O Father: you raised Jesus from the grave, bringing us victory over death and giving us eternal life.

Glory to you, O Christ: for us and for our salvation you overcame death and opened the gate to everlasting life.

Glory to you, O Holy Spirit: you lead us into the truth and breathe new life into us.

Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit now and for ever. **Amen.**

Loving and Faithful Father, we thank You that we can celebrate this morning the resurrection of Your Son Jesus. That by His death on a cruel cross we are reconciled to You. That in His rising to life, we also are risen to a new redeemed life. May everything we do, from this day forward, be to Your glory, that we may be closer to You, reflecting You in our daily lives, being a witness to Your resurrection and saving power.

Come by Your Holy Spirit to our homes this morning and help us to worship You in Spirit and in Truth. Strengthen us as a fellowship and uphold us for the days ahead, may we be a holy presence in an unholy world, followers who celebrate Your power and majesty. **Amen.**

Easter Collect:

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of Your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in Him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to You in Jesus Christ, may reign with Him in glory; to whom with You and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen

Reading: Mark 16: 1-8

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. ²Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb ³and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

⁴But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

⁶"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

⁸Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid. NIV

Hymn: StF 313 Thine be the glory. Sing/read /pray/boldly proclaim.

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

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.*

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.
*Thine be the glory,
Risen conquering Son,
Endless is the victory,
Thou o'er death hast won.*

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,
*Thine be the glory,
Risen conquering Son,
Endless is the victory,
Thou o'er death hast won.* Edmond Budry (1854-1932)

Prayer of Confession:

Early in the morning, the women on a mission of anointing with no clear idea of the how but with a deep desire to serve and pray are confronted with an empty grave -and an angel. "He has risen! He is not here!"

Let us pray: Lord God, this morning of all mornings, we are sorry for the words, actions and thoughts that hurt others and do not glorify you. We are sorry for the times where we have become hard hearted and selfish, when we have wounded others with careless words or actions or lack of the right actions. For times when we think all success depends on us.

In a few moments of silence, we name the things for which we are asking forgiveness.

Silence

Thank you Lord for the gift of forgiveness and on this resurrection morning, may we rise to new life. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come!"

Amen.

Scripture reading: Romans 6:3-11.

³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

¹¹In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. NIV.

A time to pause, re-read and reflect.

Reflection for Easter Sunday:

There can surely be no day in history more joyous than this. Joyous because it reaches far back to the very earliest of times and sets a new course for mankind. In the garden (Eden) one of the first questions that God asks is, "what is this you have done?" because from that moment a separation is opened up between God and man. The events of Good Friday and today close that separation, the prophecies foretold that this is what would take place, that God himself would come to reconcile his creation to himself and this event today, the resurrection of Jesus, achieves that.

This day marks the movement of our great macro-narrative story of the world, from the absolutely central place of "the incarnation, life and teaching, atoning death and victorious resurrection of Jesus," now moving to "the age of the mission of the church," hence the reason for our next preaching theme being about Jesus building His renewed church.

The women have gone to the tomb with no hope or thought of anything other than anointing the bloody and broken body of the one they loved. They have brought with them spices (perfume and oils). They have timed their visit so that they have the glimmer of light from the new dawn to work by and also so that they will not see anyone else who may disrupt them. They asked each other, as a discussion on the way, a question of practical necessity, "who will roll away the stone for us" and indicates that the men of the group were in hiding. The womens' trust in God, their devotion to Jesus and determination to somehow undertake this task was enough to keep them moving toward their purpose without an answer to their question. How many times do we put off beginning to undertake a task because of a perceived practical hinderance, a "yes but..." or

“let’s think realistically” -a euphemism for “this idea is not mine and I don’t trust your judgment or agree with your motives.” In this case the obstacle -the stone- is no longer in place. An anonymous author has written the following poem that speaks precisely to this 3rd verse, “Oft, before we've faced the trial, we have come with joy to own, Angels have from Heav'n descended, And have rolled away “the stone!””

“Christian, go forward today on the pathway of service undaunted by possible future obstacles! Let your heart be cheered by the thought that God will somehow “move the stone.”” Quoted from Our Daily Bread.

The angel, whilst not specifically named as such by Mark’s gospel account although that is clearly what he is, tells the shocked or alarmed women that they are in the right tomb, that Jesus was crucified and was laid in this place and is now risen from death. It is unsurprising that the gospel writers accounts differ slightly in that either slightly more or less detail is included, this is an event of earth-shattering magnitude, different details would have been remembered. The fact that there is no attempt to merge or harmonise the accounts into one is further testament, if any was needed, of the reliability of the accounts.

“Go and tell” is the message that the angel gives to the women, the resurrection of Jesus must be proclaimed loudly and repeatedly, Christ is risen! Much as we proclaim and believe, “I am no longer a slave to sin” and “I am dead to sin yet alive to God in Christ Jesus” and “Christ is my righteousness”. This “Go and tell” is also the message that the risen Christ gives to his church, “Go and tell” the entire world, all nations about me, “that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in my name...you are my witnesses of these things” (Luke 24:46-48). How can we stay silent? Only if we believe that faith in Jesus is a personal and quiet, nice and civilised activity reserved for a

Sunday. From today onwards let us repent of this attitude and “Go and tell”, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Hymn: I will sing of my Redeemer

Sing/read /pray /proclaim the words.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HU5hhE9cN6A&ab_channel=CassieThompson

I will sing of my Redeemer
and his wondrous love to me;
on the cruel cross he suffered,
from the curse to set me free.
Sing, O sing of my Redeemer!
With his blood he purchased me;
on the cross he sealed my pardon,
paid the debt, and made me free.

I will tell the wondrous story,
how my lost estate to save,
in his boundless love and mercy,
he the ransom freely gave.
I will praise my dear Redeemer,
his triumphant power I'll tell:
how the victory he gives me
over sin and death and hell.

I will sing of my Redeemer
and his heavenly love for me;
he from death to life has brought me,
Son of God, with him to be.
Sing, O sing of my Redeemer!
With his blood he purchased me;
on the cross he sealed my pardon,
paid the debt, and made me free. Philip P Bliss.

Holy Communion: A time to remember the Lord’s suffering of the past days and the glorious resurrection that today represents for us. We enter into this time with reverence and a deep desire to be close to our Lord Jesus. Using the words from 1 Corinthians 11:23 “the Lord Jesus on the same night...” to verse 26 “...proclaiming the Lord’s death until he comes” we share in the Lord’s Supper. Following which we give thanks for the fruits of his redemption revealed through his resurrection on this glorious day. **Amen.**

Our Lord's Prayer (the Christian family prayer):

Our Father in Heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the Kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. **Amen.**

Hymn: StF 351 In Christ alone.

Sing/read /pray /proclaim the words.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RY4CW5pte98>

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied
for every sin on Him was laid
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
then bursting forth in glorious Day
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Keith Getty (1974 and Stuart Townend (1963)

May God's Gracious Mercy Become So Real to you this Easter Time. A Poem from our own dear Anne Hadley at Highcliffe.

Lord of all history, Lord of all love,
Send us Your peace dove, Lord,
Lord of all love.
Put Your peace in our turbulent hearts,
Lord from heaven above.

Lord of all history, Lord of all love,
We cry out to You,
In this true tragedy,
Lord of all mercy, Lord of all love.

Give each of us new hope, Lord,
New hope in Your love.
May we seek You this Easter,
Lord of all love.
May we seek Your redemption, Your pardon,
Lord. May we seek You anew this Easter time.

We call on Your Name, Lord,
From deep within,
And seek Your renewal, Lord,
By Your redemptive, forgiving, such wonderful,
love.

May God's gracious mercy
Become so real to you this Easter time.
May God's gracious mercy
Be revealed anew to you this Easter time. Anne
Hadley 2021

Reaffirmation of Baptism: It is traditional on Easter Sunday to reaffirm our baptism vow.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, through the paschal mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life. On this Easter Sunday we affirm the faith to which we were baptised and in which we must continue to live and grow.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father? I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son? I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit? I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. **Amen.**

In the power of the resurrection we offer our prayers for the world:

Lord, may your worldwide Church know your truth and power and be a faithful witness to our communities that Christ is Risen!

Lord, may the whole world receive protection from the Covid virus, we pray for a fair and compassionate distribution of vaccinations.

Lord, we pray for those who suffer violence, abuse and injustice because of race and gender. May all know the truth that you created us in your image, may violence never be met by violence.

Lord, may all in need find comfort, strength and freedom in the living Christ. We pray for the

protection of persecuted Christians around the world and an end to all religious discrimination.

We remember in your love those who have died, our family members and friends who have gone before us and are with you Lord in glory.

Gracious God, we offer these prayers through Jesus Christ our risen Lord and Saviour. **Amen**

A prayer of blessing for Resurrection

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill us, as Your church, with faith and hope; for a new Day has dawned
and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. May we go forth ever proclaiming "Christ is risen Alleluia!" **Amen.**

We conclude by singing Charles Wesley's Easter Hymn: SoF 298 Christ is risen today. Sing/read /pray /proclaim the words. Enjoy this stirring version and raise your voices loud in praise <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrl2sBiDxE>

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Son of Man and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Dying once He all us saved, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

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! Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Next week's service will be the beginning of a new preaching series called "Jesus builds His renewed church." YouTube links are external resources and are provided to help you engage with the songs. Singing the Faith and Hymns and Psalms resources are provided under license: CCLI 178182.