

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

### The Lord's Prayer

We say together: Our Father....

### Song — Redeeming love

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### Returning home

It is not for us to define the day

**But he will come and men and women will once again be called to proclaim the word of God in such away that it will change the world.**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**



Prepared by Rev'd Jo Brown—Easter 2021

# Easter Sunrise



## He is Risen

## Alleluia!

Before the dawn, all is quiet and still.

As the blackness changes to dark blue and purple the birds start their song—calling the world from slumber as dawn begins to break.

Flaming reds and oranges start to creep into the sky as we wait for your light. The light that brings Hope to our lives and our world. We wait patiently for your glory to shine around us, in us, and through us to light our way along the path you have laid out before us.

***Opening responses:***

This is the day:

**When tears are wiped from our faces, our hearts are mended and our fears are replaced with Joy.**

This is the day:

**When the Lord rolls away the stone of fear, and goes ahead of us into God's future.**

This is the day the Lord has made:

**Death has no fear. There is no need to be silent. We come to rejoice and shout aloud as we find our voices in the Hope of Christ, as God opens the tombs of our hearts to fill us with life.**

This is the day - Easter Day!

Christ is Risen, Alleluia

**He is Risen indeed: Alleluia, Alleluia**

**Hymn**— Christ the Lord is risen today

***Prayer of approach***

Astounding God, very early on that first day you caught chaos unawares: planting grace in a garden, setting love loose on creation, flinging joy into the air.

Jesus, Son of justice, very early on that first day you staggered sin,

the tomb; to stoop and keep stooping; to look and keep looking in; to see that Jesus is not there.

He is risen.

Our Redeemer lives!

What is this Easter morn?

It is God's promise of a new day  
It is God's promise of a new life  
It is God's promise of a new world  
coming to pass in our midst.

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

Praise be to God for his great love  
And to Jesus his only Son.  
And to the Spirit  
All three in one.

**Amen.**

Come to us, Lord Jesus Christ, come as we search the scriptures and see God's hidden purpose, come as we walk the lonely road in need of a companion, come when life mystifies and perplexes us, come into our disappointments and unease, come to the table where we share food and hopes, and in coming open our eyes to recognise you. Amen



shouldn't have been in the dark.

Jesus had told them, time and again what was going to happen. They had forgotten, or not truly understood his words to them that he would die and rise again. To be fair, I think most of us in the same situation would have been confused and disorientated in our grief of losing a loved one.

On a beautiful morning like this, we should be deeply encouraged that if Jesus knew and fulfilled God's perfect plan, then He is, beyond the shadow of a doubt, the kind of Redeemer we can trust to bring us through as well. On top of that, what a reminder this is of the fact that God truly is in control. Good Friday and Easter Sunday are the loudest declarations in all of history that God is still God. He has not given up on us, and His rescue mission cannot fail!

I also love the fact that it was the women who got up early to go and take care of Jesus' body. In Luke's account he names them. I always feel a little strange reading this version as I remember being told by my mum, that after my parents long debate on what they were going to name me when I was born, this was the reason why – Joanna had been one of those women, there at that moment, being a part of the story on that momentous day.

Peter gives us hope. That when the truth is shared, some will believe. Peter did not simply laugh off these ladies and their tall tale. Even though part of him doubted, another part compelled his feet to run. He had to see for himself what exactly had happened. This morning, God reminds all of us to run and keep running to

throwing its weight off the world; you confounded death, leaving it alone in the grave; you opened the gates of the kingdom, so all could follow you into life.

Scarred Spirit, very early on this first day of the week, while we were washing sleep from our eyes and trying to make sense of our lives, you sang glad songs to us, rolling away fears from our hearts so we can see the Risen Lord.

### ***Call to reconciliation:***

Very early in the morning,  
God created all that is good and beautiful.

Very early in the morning,  
a mother placed her new born in a manger.

Very early in the morning,  
the good news that Jesus was risen and alive in their midst was  
shared with frightened friends.

Let us confess the fears we bring this morning ...

### ***Silent prayers may be offered.***

### ***Prayer of confession***

**Emptier of tombs, on this morning of hallelujahs, we must confess how human we are. We haven't done any great evil, but we have failed to do good when we had the chance. We easily**

**accept the witness of the angel in the tomb, but find it difficult to share this good news with our friends and neighbours.**

**Dazzling God, bring us to life. Where we are tired and stressed, give us the energy to serve your creation; transform our hardened hearts into fountains of grace; forgive us for all the damage we have done - and fill us with the joy of your Holy Spirit.**

***Assurance of pardon:***

God, our Creator, gives us new life; Christ, our Redeemer, prepares a table for us; The Holy Spirit, our joy, calls us to service. This is the good news: The tomb is empty, sin is powerless, death is defeated for ever.

**On this very first day, and every day, we walk as God's people— forgiven and made whole. Thanks be to God. Amen**

Hear the GOOD NEWS concerning the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Reading - Luke 24: 1-12**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Easter Affirmation:**

This is the Good News; the grave is empty

**Christ is risen, Alleluia**

This is the Good News; the light shines in the darkness,

**And the darkness can never put it out, Alleluia**

This is the Good News; once we were no people

**Now we are God's people, Alleluia**

Christ is our peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**And also with you**

**Hymn —** Thine be the glory

The resurrection of Jesus should make an impact in our lives. Like a massive earthquake that moves the ground under our feet, the resurrection of Jesus should shake things up about how we see the world. And like a loving parent holding their child tightly in a time of crisis, the resurrection of Jesus should reassure us that everything is going to be okay.

In the account of the resurrection in the gospel according to Luke the women were perplexed, they couldn't understand what was going on. Who had rolled the stone away and why? And because the stone had been moved, they didn't expect to find Jesus' body, but the two men in dazzling clothes who suddenly stood beside them, even though it was still dark outside, they