

St Catherine's Church
Staying connected, Following Jesus, Serving our communities

#EasterSundayWorshipatHome
#worshipwhereyouare

1. #EasterSundayWorshipatHome

Use the readings and prayers and pictures on the attached document to create your own Easter Sunday worship at home, alone or with others. You could light a candle, put on some worship music, perhaps print out some paintings from Google images of the resurrection and take 30 minutes out of your day to read the readings and pray.

2. Music

You could listen to Handel's Messiah (Youtube), Adrian Snell's "The Passion" (Spotify and YouTube) or some traditional Easter Sunday hymns (all on YouTube), for example:

Jesus Christ is risen today. Alleluia
This is the day
Now the green blade riseth
Thine be the glory
All heaven declares
Crown him with many crowns

3. Take a photo of your #EasterSundayAtHome and post it on the St Catherine's WhatsApp Group – we will then upload the images our Instagram account.

Easter Sunday

Perhaps this year, as you use these prayers and readings as part of your #EasterSundayatHome worship you might want to begin by bringing signs of hope into your home. Some greenery from outside, a drawing of spring, or the resurrection. You may even want to go outside to pray and let the bird song and signs of spring bring hope and solace to your soul.

Opening Song: Jesus Christ is Risen Today... or another one

Alleluia. Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. **Alleluia.**

He has defeated the powers of death. **Alleluia.**

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing. **Alleluia.**

He has the words of eternal life. **Alleluia.**

Risen Lord Jesus,
as Mary Magdalene met you in the garden
on the morning of your resurrection,
so may we meet you today and every day:
speak to us as you spoke to her;
reveal yourself as the living Lord;
renew our hope and kindle our joy;
and send us to share the good news with others.
Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

Silence may be kept.

**God of mercy, we acknowledge that we are all sinners.
We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said and done,
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive us for all that is past,
and help us to live each day
in the light of Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May God our Father forgive us our sins and bring us to the eternal joy of his kingdom,
where dust and ashes have no dominion. **Amen.**

The Collect

Merciful Father, hear our prayers and comfort us;
renew our trust in your Son, whom you raised from the dead;
strengthen our faith that all who have died in the love of Christ
will share in his resurrection;
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Some words of scripture

'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord. 'Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

John 11.25,26

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is his faithfulness.

Lamentations 3.22,23

Gospel of John 20. 1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Questions:

1. What bit of the story strikes you as particularly important today?
2. Which one verse would you like to try and hold onto?
3. What questions do you have?
4. How does it provoke you to pray?

Personal Prayers

Set up some tealight candles and light a candle for those for whom you want to pray.
Use your own words to pray about what is most on your heart.

Closing Prayers

God of Life,
who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son
to the death of the cross,
and by his glorious resurrection
have delivered us
from the power of our enemy:
grant us so to die daily to sin,
that we may evermore
live with him
in the joy of his risen life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

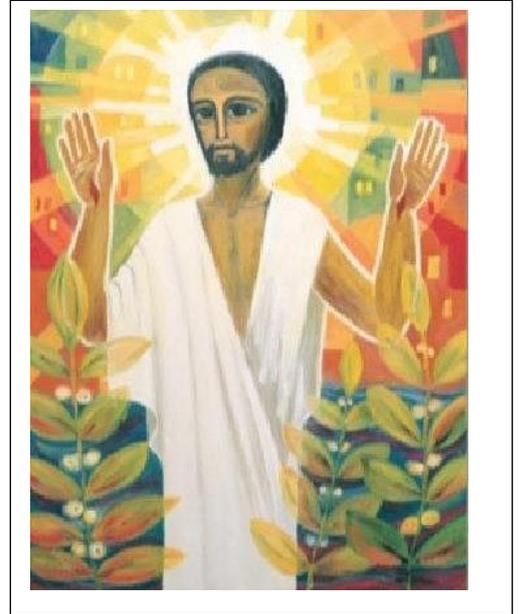
The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father. **Amen.**

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.



The above image is from Turvey Abbey's Stations of the Cross – Resurrected Jesus.

Why not paint your own painting in response to the Gospel?

Or write a poem or a prayer?