

## A Time of Prayer Together: Easter 2021 – NEW LIFE DAWNS

### **Opening Words (from Psalm 118)**

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;  
God's steadfast love endures for ever.  
This is the day that the Lord has made;  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

### **Prayers for the Easter Season**

Loving and eternal God,  
through the resurrection of your Son,  
help us to face the future  
with courage and assurance,  
knowing that nothing in life or death  
can ever part us from your love for us  
in Jesus Christ our Saviour;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

God of life and love,  
your Son made himself known to his disciples  
in the breaking of the bread.  
Open our eyes that we may see him  
in his redeeming work;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### **Words of a Hymn (by Charles Wesley):**

Christ the Lord is risen today; *Alleluia!*  
All creation joins to say: *Alleluia!*  
Raise your joys and triumphs high: *Alleluia!*  
Sing, you heaven; let earth reply: *Alleluia!*

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!*

### **A list of Bible readings is given over the page...**

### **Subjects we might like to pray for:**

*God's church, as we proclaim the good news of  
resurrection, sharing together in our love and care  
for one another and for all God's creation;*

*Those suffering through illness, loneliness,  
isolation, depression or anxiety;*

*God's world, and the leaders of the world;*

*Our NHS, and all who work in healthcare, hospitals,  
emergency services, carers and community nurses;*

*The communities in which we live; and all who work  
in education, public services, or as key workers;*

*Families struggling financially, or whose lives have  
been thrown into disarray in this past year;*

*For the safe roll-out of the vaccine, and for countries  
which are not as well-off as ours in this respect.*

### **A Prayer for those in Essential Work**

Lord Jesus,  
you came not to be served, but to serve,  
and showed us how to wash each other's feet.  
Bless those who serve us today, and who have  
risked their health to serve us this past year:  
May all who do thankless tasks be thanked;  
all who give of themselves be strengthened;  
all who minister be encouraged;  
and all who labour be justly rewarded.  
By your Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

### **A Prayer for Healing**

Loving God,  
in whom all things are made whole,  
you sent your Son our Saviour  
to heal a broken world.  
Give peace to our hearts and minds  
as we pray to you with confidence:  
visit us with your salvation,  
that we may be blessed and healed  
in body, mind and spirit;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **A Prayer for the Bereaved**

Father of mercies and God of all comfort,  
you have made nothing in vain  
and you love all that you have made.  
Look in tender mercy on all who are bereaved,  
and help them by your grace to find in you  
their refuge and their strength. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Closing Prayer (by Revd Robin Hutt)**

Loving and holy God,  
you share all our journeying  
and wait ahead of us wherever we go:  
in times of light,  
may we walk in joyful gratitude;  
in times of darkness,  
may we walk with faithful courage;  
and as we travel into the unknown,  
may we walk in certain hope.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Final Words**

Go in joy and peace to love and serve the Lord.  
In the name of Christ. Alleluia!

## Suggested Bible Readings:

**From the Lectionary:** (These will be read by Christians of many churches around the world...)

### Passion Sunday (Lent 5), 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021

- John chapter 12: verses 20-33
- Psalm 51: 1-12
- Jeremiah 31:31-34

### Palm Sunday (Lent 6), 28<sup>th</sup> March

- Mark chapter 11: verses 1-11
- Psalm 118
- Philippians 2: 5-11

Monday in Holy Week      John 12: 1-11

Tuesday in Holy Week      John 12: 20-36

Wednesday in Holy Week      John 13: 21-32

### Maundy Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> April

- John 13: verses 1-17, and 31-35
- Psalm 116
- 1 Corinthians chapter 11: verses 23-26

### Good Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April

- John chapters 18 & 19
- or Mark chapter 15
- Psalm 22

### Holy Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April

- John 19: 38-42
- Psalm 31: 1-5
- 1 Peter 4: verses 1-8

### Easter Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021

- John chapter 20: verses 1-18
- Mark chapter 16: verses 1-8
- 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11
- Acts chapter 10: 34-43

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

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter, 11<sup>th</sup> April

- John chapter 20: verses 19-31
- Psalm 133
- Acts 4: 32-35

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021

- Luke chapter 24: 36-48
- Psalm 4
- Acts 3: 12-19

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, 25<sup>th</sup> April

- John chapter 10: verses 11-18
- Psalm 23
- 1<sup>st</sup> Letter of John (1 John) ch 3: 16-24

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, 2<sup>nd</sup> May

- John 15: 1-8
- 1 John 4: 7-21
- Acts 8: 26-40

### 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, 9<sup>th</sup> May

- John 15: 9-17
- Psalm 98
- 1 John 5: 9-17

### Ascension Day, 13<sup>th</sup> May

- Luke 24: 44-53
- Acts 1: 1-11

### Ascension Sunday (7<sup>th</sup> of Easter), 16<sup>th</sup> May

- Acts chapter 1
- Psalm 1
- John 17: 6-19

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

May grace and peace be yours in abundance.

*(Words from the First Letter of Peter, chapter 1)*

**Times when we might all like to pause  
(wherever we are) to pray together:**

Sundays at 10.30am, or 4.00pm

Fridays at 12noon – 12.30pm

Know that others are praying with you as you pray at these times. And, with Christ, we are *never* alone.

If you have access to the internet,  
please visit our website for other resources:  
[www.harboroughmethodistcircuit.org.uk](http://www.harboroughmethodistcircuit.org.uk)