

**Worship for Easter Sunday**  
**4th April 2021**  
*from Brian & Clare Kennard*

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!  
*(Say out loud)* **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



**Hymn suggestion:**

1. Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!  
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

2. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia!  
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

3. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!  
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

4. Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia!  
Foll'wing 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!  
Thee to know, Thy pow'r to prove, Alleluia!  
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

**Prayer time:**

*Be still and focus on the awesome God we serve:  
great beyond all words, but revealing Himself  
through His Word, and most clearly through the*

*Word who became flesh - the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Rejoice that ours is not a dead religion that we  
serve, but a risen, active, living Saviour! Express  
your adoration, worship and praise in whatever  
ways you can.*

**Prayer for today ("Collect"):**

God our Father,  
by raising Christ your Son  
you conquered the power of death  
and opened for us the way to eternal life.  
Let our celebration today raise us up  
and renew our lives by the Spirit that is within us.  
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Bible readings:**

If you have your own Bible, please read: **Psalm  
118 verses 1,2 & 14-24**

**New Testament: Mark 16: 1-8**

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb <sup>3</sup>and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" <sup>4</sup>But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>"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. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" <sup>8</sup>Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

**What a disappointment!**

Imagine receiving a beautifully wrapped parcel. What's inside? But then, as you peel back layer after layer of wrapping paper, bubble wrap and the like, you find - nothing. The package is empty! Isn't that a tiny bit how the first friends of Jesus felt on Good Friday? All that they had hoped for had come to nothing. They felt let down, afraid - who

would be the next to be arrested? It seems as if only a couple of ladies had enough love to want to go and anoint the dead body of Jesus. But what a discovery that mission of love made! “He is risen! He is not here.” (v6)

About 22 years later, the apostle Paul begins his letter to the church in Rome with these words:

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God- the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our LORD. (Romans 1:1-4)

As we all know, the religious leaders and authorities of the time had a negative opinion of Jesus: He’s a liar, an impostor, a fraud, a sinner and so on. Even today many see Jesus as “a good man” or “a wise teacher” who came to a sticky end and nothing more.

The resurrection is God’s vindication of all that Jesus claimed about Himself, the reversal of the false judgement of those in charge and the glorious renewal of hope and purpose for us who trust in Him:

I serve a risen Saviour,  
he’s in the world today;  
I know that he is living,  
whatever others say;  
I see his hand of mercy,  
I hear his voice of cheer,  
and just the time I need him  
he’s always near.

Refrain:

*He lives, he lives,  
Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me  
along life’s narrow way.  
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know he lives?  
He lives within my heart.*

The believer has a testimony to a risen Jesus not only in the Bible, important though that is, but in his or her heart. Hallelujah! He is risen indeed.

## Prayer time.

Pray that the Easter message of eternal life in Jesus and hope for the present may be proclaimed around the world - and in Gartree- in the power of the Holy Spirit.

In your own words, remember before God...those in authority in this country and around the world grappling with the present crisis and the many other difficult problems humanity faces....all those “on the front line” whether NHS staff, transport workers, shop workers, the emergency services...those most personally affected by the Covid-19 outbreak: the bereaved, those seriously ill, those who have already lost their jobs.. the Church of Jesus Christ as together we seek to witness to the love and care of God in word and action....that people everywhere would recognise that those of every race and language are made in the image of God and that we are all one in Christ...and for yourself and your family. Pray for Owen O’Neill, previous Catholic chaplain here, who is seriously ill at a nursing home. Remember, too, thankfulness!

## The Lord’s Prayer (traditional version):

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done; .  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**The blessing:** Now may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with and remain with us always. Amen.



Happy Easter from all the  
Christian chaplains!