

**Winchester, Eastleigh & Romsey Circuit**  
**SERVICE AT HOME – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Prepared by Revd Ruth Fry

**Opening words:**

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

**Listen, read, pray, or sing along**

<https://youtu.be/FZcCnLfufQs?si=iX5h7BibZHk01GaU>

*Alleluia, alleluia,  
give thanks to the risen Lord,  
alleluia, alleluia,  
give praise to his name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth ;  
he is the King of creation :

Spread the good news o'er all the earth :  
Jesus has died and has risen :

We have been crucified with Christ ;  
now we shall live for ever :

God has proclaimed the just reward :  
new life for all ! Alleluia !

Come, let us praise the living God,  
joyfully sing to our Saviour :

*Donald Fishel (b. 1950)*  
*Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition,*  
*number 295*  
*Words and Music: © The Word of God, Ann Arbor, MI, USA*

**Prayer:**

Glory to you, O God:  
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 forever.

**Amen.**

If we have fallen into despair  
**Lord, forgive us.**

If we have failed to hope in you,  
**Lord, forgive us.**

If we have been fearful of death,  
**Lord, forgive us.**

If we have forgotten the victory of Christ,  
**Lord, forgive us.**

*Silence*

May the living God  
Raise us from despair,  
Give us victory over sin  
And set us free in Christ.  
**Amen.**

**Readings:**

1 John 3 verses 1-7

Luke 24 verses 36b-48

**Reflection:**

I thought I'd seen a ghost. No joking, I really did. Oh, I shouldn't have done, I realise that- after everything Jesus had said, and certainly not after the reports we'd heard from those who'd seen him- but we were struggling to take it in, more troubled than happy at the news, afraid something spooky was going on. And when suddenly he appeared, popping up out of nowhere, I was absolutely petrified. Well, we all were, let's be honest, though none of us would admit it publicly. We nearly jumped out of our skins when we saw him, and though we composed ourselves afterwards, tried to look as though we'd been expecting him all along, we couldn't fool Jesus. He'd seen our faces, taken in our reactions at a glance, and in his eyes I caught both surprise and disappointment.

'Why are you frightened?' he asked us.

'Why do you doubt so much?'

Look and see, is it me, or isn't it?'

Yet it wasn't as simple as that, not even after we'd seen his hands, touched his feet, felt his side.

We knew it was him, but we still couldn't quite believe it despite what our eyes were telling us.

It was too good to be true, I suppose. We were afraid to trust ourselves, afraid it might all be wishful thinking, seeing what we wanted to see. We didn't want to raise our hopes only to have them dashed again, so we simply stood and gawped. Yet there could be no denying it, not when he ate with us, talked with us, laughed with us. It was almost like it had been before, him and us together, and we knew then that somehow, in a way we couldn't quite understand, he's come back to us! And yet it wasn't quite how it used to be—there was something different, something we couldn't quite put our finger on. It was Jesus all right, unquestionably the man we had loved and followed, and he was there by our sides, flesh, and blood as we are. But we realised that though he'd come back to us we would have to let him go, have to part again.

There could be no return to what had gone before, no turning the clock back and pretending nothing had happened. It was the end of a chapter, a chapter we had wanted to go on for ever. Yet it was also the beginning of another, the turning of a new page, with no knowing where it might lead.

*Nick Fawcett No ordinary Man Book 1*

**Listen, read, pray, or sing along**

[https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=YKybxg99fUc&si=szFTKzxbmMZFXRbq&feature=xapp\\_share](https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=YKybxg99fUc&si=szFTKzxbmMZFXRbq&feature=xapp_share)

We will walk with God, my brothers,  
we will walk with God.  
We will walk with God, my sisters,  
We will walk with God.  
We will go rejoicing  
till the kingdom has come.  
We will go rejoicing  
till the kingdom has come.

*Original Siswati :*  
*Sizohamba naye,*  
*wo wo wo,*  
*sizohamba naye.*  
*Sizohamba naye,*  
*wo wo wo,*  
*sizohamba naye.*  
*Ngomhla wenjabula,*  
*sizohamba naye.*  
*Ngomhla wenjabula,*  
*sizohamba naye.*

*Traditional hymn from Swaziland*

*Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition,*  
*number 484*

*Translation: From One Is The Body © 2002, WGRG, Iona*  
*Community, Glasgow G2 3DH Scotland. <www.wrg.co.uk>*

### **Prayers for God's people and world:**

Knowing that the risen Christ is here among us, we pray to the One who raised his Son from the dead; we pray in his name for the Church and for the world.

Living God, we pray for your blessing on every group of Christians worshipping all over the world this day, in small gatherings and in large Cathedrals. Fill every heart with living hope; set all our hearts ablaze with the love and blessings that you keep for us, that we may walk as children in your light.

Loving God, in your mercy

### **Hear our prayer**

Merciful God, we pray for all the areas of your world which are torn apart by hatred and violence, famine, disease, or religious differences; we pray for an end to war and a deeper commitment to peace. We pray especially today for the people of Ukraine, Haiti, Gaza, and Israel. Break through the closed doors of human hearts with the joy of the

risen Christ. Make the desire for co-operation and peace prevail over hatred, selfishness, and greed.

Loving God, in your mercy

**Hear our Prayer**

Gracious God may the spirit of love dwell among our families, friends, our neighbours, and all in our communities. Help us to live in harmony with each other. We pray for all those who are yet to hear and believe the message of the good news, that they may come to know you and put their trust in you.

Loving God, in your mercy

**Hear our Prayer**

Compassionate God, we pray for those who wake up to the prospect of another day filled with pain - be it in body, mind, or spirit. Those who long for someone to spend time with them, enjoying their company; and we pray that other will notice their need. Jesus suffered and died on the Cross; you raised him to new life. Comfort all who need your loving care and give them peace. In a moment of silence, we bring before you all those known only to us who especially need our prayers at this time.

Loving God, in your mercy

**Hear our Prayer**

Generous God, we thank you for the precious gift of new life; may we never again take it for granted but live each moment in the fullness of life that Jesus offers us.

**Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

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.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

Offer your regular giving to God.

As we bring these gifts to you, and offer you our lives, we thank you for all your good gifts and especially for your coming Kingdom.

**Listen, read, pray, or sing along**

<https://youtu.be/odEnMrgu4JE?si=XhftxQgdZeMOJC-K>

I know that my Redeemer lives —  
what joy the blest assurance gives !  
He lives, he lives, who once was dead ;  
he lives, my everlasting Head !

He lives, to bless me with his love ;  
he lives, to plead for me above ;  
he lives, my hungry soul to feed ;  
he lives, to help in time of need.

He lives, and grants me daily breath ;  
he lives, and I shall conquer death ;  
he lives, my mansion to prepare ;  
he lives, to lead me safely there.

He lives, all glory to his name ;  
he lives, my Saviour, still the same ;  
what joy the blest assurance gives,  
I know that my Redeemer lives !

*Samuel Medley (1738–1799)*

*Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 303.*

**Closing Prayer:**

Gracious God, bless each one of us  
and send us out in the power of your Spirit,  
that we might grow  
deeper in wisdom,  
more passionate in faith,  
and more loving towards  
ourselves and others.

In the name of Christ, we pray

**Amen**

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