

twelvebaskets

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EASTER 2C

27th April 2025

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

Take time to find something in your home that you hold as precious and important. It may be a photograph, a flower or personal item.

Whatever you choose consider:

- What is it that makes it important to you?
- What memories does it hold?
- How do you feel about it and what would happen if you lost it?

Now imagine that God is holding you as precious and important

- Loving and caring for you and your unique character
- Following your journey of faith
- Wanting never to lose you

When you feel able put down your object and pick up again these written words

Come then to worship, knowing that whatever you offer in this moment is precious and important.

Amen.

You may now wish to say the Lord's Prayer in a version or translation with which you are familiar

Reading: John 20: 19-31 – [Click for reading](#)

Responding to the reading

The disciples are living in the context of fear, in the context of doubt, in the context of unbelief, on that Easter evening when they were filled with gloom, fear and distress, and then the risen Jesus comes into their midst and pronounces peace to them, offering courage and strength in their discipleship.

Christian discipleship calls us to be such peacemakers, bringing peace to people who are caught up in situations of fear, distress and unbelief. The opposite of faith is not doubt, but fear, and it is this post-resurrection moment that clears that fear and fills the disciples with calmness, and leads them to peace which passes all understanding.

In verse 30 and 31 we read, "Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." What do these unrecorded signs of Jesus convey to us? In John 21 verse 25 we read "Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written." How do we account these unmentioned and unrecorded signs of Jesus?

These verses from John helps us to understand that Jesus' activities are dynamic and are not limited merely to the written book. The calling for us is to recognise the unrecorded

signs of Jesus and allow God's word to be dynamic. These unwritten signs of Jesus counters all literalists who narrow the work of God merely to the closed revelation of God. God's revelation is an ongoing process, and God can speak in God's own terms and God's own diverse ways, and let us not limit that dynamism in the word of God.

Resurrection is all about celebrating life, new life and renewed life. How is the story of resurrection continuing in your life, and in the world around you today? Can you notice it?

In the world of increasing conflict and violence, the risen Jesus is inviting us to join with him in working for peace and justice to the wounded world. What is yours to do in this context? How can you be a part of the change you want to see?

You might like to take a look at the Methodist Church's Justice Seeking Church report – is there something in here that chimes for you? <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/social-justice/a-justice-seeking-church/>

Responding in prayer

In the stillness, in this season of new life and resurrection, I bring you my prayers for those closest to home.

Hold a moment of quiet.

Lord, you know my heart, and you know the people I carry there, people I love and people who are carrying their own pain right now. Bring your healing I pray.

In the stillness, in this season of new life and resurrection, I bring you my prayers for those further afield, those I don't know but have a particular concern for or feel the urge to pray for today.

Hold a moment of quiet.

Lord, you know my prayers and you know the people I have brought to you today, far better than I know them. Bring your peace into their situation today, I pray.

In the stillness, in this season of new life and resurrection, I finish by offering prayer for the wider world, for situations I've read about or watched in the news, for the places of conflict and violence in the world.

Hold a moment of quiet.

Lord, this is your world, and I know you weep for it. Bring your love into places where there is hatred, O God, bring your light into places where there is darkness. Come, Lord Jesus, Amen.

Responding in music

305 STF – Low in the grave he lay - [YouTube](#)

Blessing

You shall go out with peace,
And be sent forth with joy,
May you go and spread the peace, joy and love of Christ with all you meet this week.
Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers

Monday 28th April

- Today, why not take up the mantra: 'Here I am, send me.'
- Your prayer activity for today is to try to say those 5 words – aloud or in your head – as many times as you can during the day. Say them as a prayer. Say them as an invitation. Say them as a way of stilling your busy brain to focus on God's still, small voice.
- Here I am. Send me.

Tuesday 29th April

- If you have chance today, head outside and look at the sky (ideally not when it's pouring with rain!). Take note of the clouds, of the speed they are moving, of the light the sun is casting, perhaps you can see the moon or some stars if it is after sunset.
- Under the vastness of the open sky, reflect on how far away the clouds are, and how much further the sun and the stars are...
- As you look at the huge expanse of the horizon, think about how much bigger our Creator is, how the God we worship knows each one of us and yet is also holding the whole universe together.

Wednesday 30th April

- God is everywhere, if only you could be still enough to notice.
- Today, your challenge is to notice.
- Look for God in the sunrise, the birdsong, the taste of pizza, the comfort of your sofa, the embrace of a loved one, a text message that makes you smile...whatever it is.
- Notice.

Thursday 1st May

- Step out from your time of quiet prayer and reflection into the light and life of God, at the start of this new month.
- May God's life be in your heart,
May God's light be in your eyes
and may life and light go from you to others. Amen.

Friday 2nd May

- Holy God, you have called me here, in this moment, this day, this Friday.
Lord of life, I see you at work in the world around me.
Open my eyes, and open my heart,
That I may be ready to receive your Spirit into my life. Amen.

Saturday 3rd May

- Take a moment to look at your hands. Reflect on the things you have used them for already this week: to do housework, to write emails, to make phone calls, perhaps some digging in the garden or some manual labour tasks.
- Thank you God, for these hands. Help me to use them as your hands in the world – to use my body, my mind, my whole life, for the building of your Kingdom here on earth.
Amen.