

# Easter Sunday worship at home

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9DyF0TLkx4>

SoF N°829 | **STAND AMAZED IN THE PRESENCE**

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

*\*Let us pray.*

*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 for ever. Amen.*

*\*Prayers of confession*

*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.*

*In silence we offer our prayers of confession*

*May the living God raise us from despair,  
give us victory over sin and set us free in Christ Amen*

*\*The collect*

*Lord of all life and power,  
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son  
overcame the old order of sin and death  
to make all things new in him:  
grant that we, being dead to sin  
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
may reign with him in glory;  
to whom with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
be praise and honour, glory and might,  
now and in all eternity. Amen*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LgE\\_E7yaz4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LgE_E7yaz4)

SoF N°2020 SEE, WHAT A MORNING, gloriously bright

Matthew 28:1-10 New Revised Standard Version

## The Resurrection of Jesus

**28** After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." <sup>8</sup> So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sj9ljVsfk>

SoF N°285 JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY; Hallelujah!

## Easter Sunday 2020 – a reflection on Matthew 28:1-10

Trying to move something heavy is difficult and sometimes if it is really, really heavy, impossible to do with only human strength.

The stone which covered the entrance to the tomb would have been very heavy and it most likely would have sat within a groove. A channel for the stone which would have made moving the stone more difficult.

To move that stone, it needed strength; yes, it was not beyond the possibility of human endeavours. Get enough people, strong people with the right equipment and you could certainly have removed the tomb stone.

But this tomb stone was being approached by two people, two women, who not only had the stone to contend with but also the guards.

But we heard what happened, 'There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.' And we are told 'His appearance was like lightning and his clothes were white as snow.'

I love this account which we have in the gospel according to Matthew. There is big earth-quaking action with the entrance of an angel of the Lord, there is no messing about in rolling back the stone with confidence, knowing that Jesus wasn't to be found were He had been laid. He expressed his certain joy and elation of Christ's victory by sitting on the tombstone, which had been rolled back, said He has risen, come and see.

Alleluia! Christ has risen! He has risen indeed! Alleluia!

When I reflect upon this Good News for all people upon the earth, this Good News of Christ for all, I see strength.

I see strength and courage within the women who went to the tomb, who didn't shake and become like dead men. Who took their strength and courage and were met by God's strength, seen in Christ Jesus Our Risen Lord and Saviour.

You see it would have been a very different story without God. (Obviously)

Yet, how often do we try and do things in our own strength... how often do we soldier-on in our strength seeking God to join in with us rather than the other way around. How often are we prepared to meet our living and loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the places we live and serve.

Are we open to be met by God, to seek God's Kingdom, to seek God's Strength, and to seek God's Way?

I don't want to live and to act by my own strength. I want to live, to breathe, and to serve God in God's strength who can accomplish things far beyond my wildest dreams and gives new life in all its fullness.

My strength is limited, our strength is limited, that is humanity. *For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. (1 Corinthians 1:25)*

Taking the image of the tombstone, I wonder, what might the tombstone that needed moving represent in your life? Are we looking to God in our weakness to move that tombstone and reveal in us His resurrection power?

Furthermore, what might be the tombstone that needed moving represent in the life of the church? Are we all collectively looking to God in our weakness to move this, for the glory and purposes of God?

Might the tombstone represent those times when we fail to witness and minister in the power of the Risen Lord and live as Easter people. Might it be the times when pitch human wisdom against God's foolishness. Which is certainly not wise.

*'Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.'* (Ephesians 6:10)

As we recognise,

*'I can do all things through him who strengthens me.'* (Philippians 4:13)

And,

*<sup>11</sup> May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup> He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:11-14)*

Final, finally, we look once more to our reading.

*'So the women hurried away... afraid yet filled with joy, and ran'* (Matthew 28:8-10)

I pray we will encourage one another to have more of this kind of enthusiasm. Running on their way to tell the disciples the good news when suddenly Jesus met them. Let us run for God and let us be met by Jesus!

'Greetings, he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him, his feet which had been pierced. 'Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.' In His words for Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, Jesus immediately address that fact that they were experiencing earth shaking and world transforming history in the making. They were before the Son of God in a new way, a way previously glimpsed at the transfiguration on the mountain. It is tremendously difficult to know what emotions they must have had. First being met by an angel of the Lord and then being met by the Lord. However, we do know their response within those emotions, they fall to Jesus' feet and worship him.

Hear the words of Our Risen Lord Jesus, 'Do not be afraid.' Let us keep hold of the joy we know in our relationship with God through Jesus. Let us remember that 'the joy of the Lord is my Strength.' Let us; 'let go and let God' in all things. Let us fall to Jesus' feet and worship Him.

May God who strengthens us, speak in and through us as we go and tell everyone the good news that, Jesus is alive!

Let us show this by following Christ and His example of living a life of love. For it is in that place where God's love rules that people will see Jesus.

Amen.

*Let us offer our prayers for others and the world... in silence or aloud, we pray.*



*Bringing our prayers together we pray.*

*\*May all your children receive grace and light according to their needs and come at last to share with all the saints in life eternal.*

*Lord of life, hear us in your love.*

*Gracious God, we ask these prayers through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Saviour. Amen.*

*As our Saviour taught his disciples, we pray: **Our Father, who art in heaven...***

*\*God the Father,*

*by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,*

*strengthen us to walk with him in his risen life;*

*and may almighty God bless us,*

*the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen*

*Alleluia! Go in joy and peace to love and serve the Lord.*

*In the name of Christ. Alleluia!*

*LET US REJOICE! LET US SING!*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=098-dc6X1zs>

**SoF N°1506 – REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS**

Rejoice in the Lord always

And again I say rejoice.

Rejoice in the Lord always

And again I say rejoice.

Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice.

Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice.

## HYMN SHEET

### SoF N°829

I STAND AMAZED IN THE PRESENCE  
Of Jesus the Nazerene,  
And wonder how He could love me,  
A sinner, condemned, unclean.

*How marvellous! How wonderful!  
And my song shall ever be:  
How marvellous! How wonderful!  
Is my Saviour's love for me!*

For me it was in the garden He prayed,  
'Not My will, but Thine':  
He had no tears for His own griefs,  
But sweat drops of blood for mine.

In pity angels beheld Him,  
And came from the world of light  
To comfort Him in the sorrows  
He bore for my soul that night.

He took my sins and my sorrows,  
He made them His very own;  
He bore the burden of Calvary,  
And suffered and died alone.

When with the ransomed in glory  
His face I at last shall see,  
'Twill be my joy through the ages  
To sing of His love for me.

Charles H. Gabriel (1856 – 1932)

### SoF N°2020

SEE, WHAT A MORNING, gloriously bright,  
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;  
Folded, the grave-clothes,  
Tomb filled with light,  
As the angels announce Christ is risen!  
See God's salvation plan,  
Wrought in love, borne in pain,  
Paid in sacrifice,  
Fulfilled in Christ the Man,  
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!

See Mary weeping, 'Where is He laid?'  
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;  
Hears a voice speaking,  
Calling her name;  
It's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!  
The voice that spans the years,  
Speaking life, stirring hope,  
Bringing peace to us,  
Will sound till He appears,  
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!

One with the Father, Ancient of Days,  
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with  
certainty;  
Honour and blessing,  
Glory and praise  
To the King crowned with power and  
authority!  
And we are raised with Him,  
Death is dead, love has won,  
Christ has conquered;  
And we shall reign with Him,  
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!

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### SoF N°285

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY;  
Hallelujah!  
Our triumphant holy day; Hallelujah!  
Who did once upon the cross; Hallelujah!  
Suffer to redeem our loss; Hallelujah!

Hymns of praise then let us sing; Hallelujah!  
Unto Christ our heavenly King; Hallelujah!  
Who endured the cross and grave; Hallelujah!  
Sinners to redeem and save: Hallelujah!

But the pains which He endured; Hallelujah!  
Our salvation have precured; Hallelujah!  
Now in heaven above He's King; Hallelujah!  
Where the angels ever sing: Hallelujah!

Lyra Davidica, 1708, Charles Wesley (1707-88)