



Worship at Home Easter 2022 Service

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

StF N°295 – Alleluia, alleluia

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)

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.**

Risen Lord, as your glorious light shines
within our hearts and life's, it reveals our sins.
Turning to you with sincere hearts we confess
our sins, trusting in your mercy and asking
Lord, forgive us.

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

*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*

StF N°309 – See, what a morning

SEE, WHAT A MORNING, gloriously bright,
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
Folded, the graveclothes,
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!

Luke 24:1-12 The Resurrection of Jesus

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

This year I was delighted to be able to share the Easter story with some young children from a local school and their younger siblings from a toddler group. We began with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, complete with donkey.

We then entered the upper room and explored the last supper, as well as Jesus' washing the disciples' feet. I was encouraged by how well the children knew the various parts of the Easter story, including that Jesus died upon the cross. I then shared the story of Jesus' resurrection, concluding with the discovery made by Mary and the other disciples that Jesus is alive.

It was at this point that a little boy raised his voice and called out; "Is that it?" At first, I, the teachers and the other parents were taken back by this out cry. But what a great question. I'm not suggesting that Jesus rising from the dead, victorious over evil, defeating death and bringing in the Kingdom of God is not enough, because it is everything. It is the way of salvation, forgiveness of our sins, why we can have the fullness of life for eternity.

Neither do I believe the little boy was referring to the resurrection of Jesus as not being enough. His question moves us to ask what's next, in the sense of how we are going to respond to earth shaking, history making, future shaping love of God seen through the life, death, resurrection of Jesus Christ?

In the gospel according to John, we are told two angels appeared, here in Luke, they are described as two men in dazzling clothes. Their message to the women who discovered the empty tomb is, I believe something which can help us to know how we ought to respond.

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again."

Firstly, do we look for our living God with the eyes of our heart, with our mind's eye open to seeing the amazing vista which God's Kingdom is come on earth. Do we look at who we are, how we serve and what we give with the recognition that God is living and active. That God is not to be found in an empty tomb, rather that God is found among the living.

Secondly, that Jesus is risen and our response by the grace of God is to receive with an openness the gift of new life and live it faithfully. Furthermore, that we respond by inviting daily our risen Lord to reign within us and shape how we live. Because thirdly, we remember what a faithful God we serve, we remember the teachings and example of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. We remember too that Jesus didn't leave us alone, that God Holy Spirit is able to inspire us, guide us and equip us for all that we are to become in pursuit of following Christ Jesus.

Is that it? the little boy asked. And the disciples of Christ say not at all. This greatest love story of all time continues and continually offers hope to transform the world one soul at a time.

How will you respond this Easter to the new life God offers you through the Risen Jesus Christ? Will you let God easter in you? Will we let the Risen Christ into your heart and life?

Will you live the good news that God's kingdom is come, by how you speak, serve, and put love into action, accepting the invitation to join in with our living, loving God in mission, who continually seeks all people to know the amazing grace and the amazing love made known through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer below written by Revd. Michaela Youngson

Let us pray.

*When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine
again,
your love broke through.*

*Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.*

*The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.*

*Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of
resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.*

*We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and
joy,
will live in us each day,
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.*

Amen.

StF N°293 All heaven declares

All heaven declares
the glory of the risen Lord;
who can compare
with the beauty of the Lord?
For ever he will be
the Lamb upon the throne;
I gladly bow the knee,
and worship him alone.

I will proclaim
the glory of the risen Lord,
who once was slain
to reconcile us to God.
For ever you will be
the Lamb upon the throne;
I gladly bow the knee,
and worship you alone.

Noel Richards (b. 1955) and Tricia Richards (b. 1960)

Prayers for Others.

In the power of the resurrection, we offer our prayers to God,

Let us pray.

We pray for the needs of the people in this broken, hurting, suffering world.

Lord of new life, hear us in your love.

We pray for the lonely and the lost. For those living in despair.

Lord of new life, hear us in your love.

We pray for the hungry and those living in poverty. For all those faced with a daily struggle to survive.

Lord of new life, hear us in your love.

We pray for the places in the world that have and are living with the horrific acts of violence and war. We cry out in prayer for the people of the Ukraine, Afghanistan, Yemen.

Lord of new life, hear us in your love.

We pray for all those who are sick and in need of healing. May they know your healing hand upon them through the care that they receive.

Lord of new life, hear us in your love.

We pray for all who are bereaved. May they know the comfort and strength of your peace.

Lord of new life, hear us in your love.

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

The Lord's Prayer

We say together the prayer that Jesus gave us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

StF N°302 He has risen, Jesus is alive

He has risen,
he has risen,
he has risen,
Jesus is alive.

When the life flowed from his body,
seemed like Jesus' mission failed.
But his sacrifice accomplished,
victory over sin and hell.

In the grave God did not leave him,
for his body to decay;
raised to life, the great awakening,
Satan's power he overcame.

If there were no resurrection,
we ourselves could not be raised;
but the Son of God is living,
so our hope is not in vain.

When the Lord rides out of heaven,
mighty angels at his side,
they will sound the final trumpet,
from the grave we shall arise.

He has given life immortal,
we shall see him face to face;
through eternity we'll praise him,
Christ, the Champion of our faith.

Gerald Coates (b. 1944), Noel Richards (b. 1955) and Tricia Richards (b. 1960)

Sending Blessing

*Lord our God, we give you thanks
because you have delivered us from the
power of darkness and brought us into the
kingdom of your Son.
Grant that, as by his resurrection,
we are brought to new life,
so by his continued reign in us
we may be brought to eternal joy;
through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God the Father,
by whose glory Christ was raised from the
dead,
strengthen *you*,
to walk with him in his risen life;
and may almighty God bless *you*,
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!

