## **Worship for Maundy Thursday – 7pm**

## Graphic, Communion, Christian

**This weekend, as we come together for our worship, I invite you to join me and Catherine in doing something that is new and different for us all:**

**Learning how to close our eyes so that we can see things more clearly.** You’ll see what I mean as we go on….

READ THIS SECTION BEFORE WORSHIP BEGINS:

Welcome to worship together, at home.

Please have a Bible next to you

*………………..*

*WELCOME & INTRODUCTION:*

**This year it’s well worth noting that the ‘Last Supper’ that took place on the very first Maundy Thursday was held in a private home: not in the Temple or a Synagogue or a Church. And now, as we commemorate the meal that Jesus shared with His disciples on the day before He died, we too all have to worship at home, not in Church.**

**In the days of the New Testament, the Last Supper worship was the annual celebration of the Passover: the remembering of how God led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and, specifically, how the Israelites had to daub the blood of the Passover lamb on their door frames when the Angel of the Lord ‘passed over’ to kill all the first-born. In that way they were protected, as is described in Exodus chapter 12. And even today, the Passover meal and celebration is still kept in the home by Jews.**

*So as we settle in our homes to remember the first Maundy Thursday, again I invite you to take this moment to stop whatever else you are doing.*

*This is God’s time. Sit comfortably. Today you are going to meet with Jesus, where He is, instead of Him coming to you.*

*Again picture our church family and we welcome others too who are joining with us right now to worship God in this moment in their own homes. Know that we are worshipping together, even though we can’t see each other.*

*Remember that we are one in the Lord.*

*If you aren’t following the service on FB, we suggest that, if you are alone, you say the prayers and readings aloud. If you are with others, choose someone to lead and the rest of you join in with the words in bold. On FB, simply join in the words in bold.*

*……………….*

Tonight we have much to remember: how Jesus shared in the Last Supper with His disciples, how He gave them and us Communion, how He washed the disciples’ feet, and how He then led them out to Gethsemane, where He prayed in anguish, and committed Himself again to doing what God, the Father, wanted - before He was arrested.

So, as we gather, let us remember that the Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ says:

‘If you love Me, keep My commandments.’

‘Unless I wash you, you have no part in Me.’

Let us confess to Almighty God our sins against His love,

and ask Him to cleanse us.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

Have mercy on us, O God,

in Your great goodness;

according to the abundance of Your compassion

blot out our offences.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Against You only have we sinned

and done what is evil in Your sight.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Purge us from our sin and we shall be clean;

Wash us and we shall be whiter than snow.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the Father forgive us by the death of His Son

and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit

all our days.

**Amen.**

We say the ***Gloria in Excelsis:***

**Glory to God in the highest,**

**and peace to His people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,**

**almighty God and Father,**

**we worship You, we give You thanks,**

**we praise You for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**You take away the sin of the world:**

**have mercy on us;**

**You are seated at the right hand of the Father:**

**receive our prayer.**

**For You alone are the Holy One,**

**You alone are the Lord,**

**You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit,**

**in the glory of God the Father.**

**Amen.**

*And we pray today’s ‘Prayer of the Day’:*

**God our Father,**

**Your Son Jesus Christ was obedient to the end**

**and drank the cup prepared for Him:**

**May we who share His table**

**watch with Him through the night of suffering**

**and be faithful.**

**Amen.**

##### ***Now read the following from your Bible – or listen to the readings on Facebook: 1 Corinthians 11.23-26 and John 13.1-17 & 31-35***

PRAYER TIME: (On FB Catherine will now lead our prayers)

**The Love of Jesus**

This is love:
Not just that You spoke words of comfort,
walked with the unclean and unloved,
shared wisdom, bread and wine,
brought healing into lives
and challenged the status quo.

But this is even greater love.
That You spoke the word of God,
walked a painful road to the Cross,
shared living water, bread of life,
brought Salvation to the world
and died for the sake of all.

This is love.
It is a seed sown in the ground,
which germinates, blossoms,
and spreads its sweet perfume.

Father, on this, the night that Your Son Jesus Christ was betrayed, He washed His disciples’ feet.

So we commit ourselves to follow His example of love and service.

Lord, hear us.  **And humble us.**

On this night, He prayed for His disciples to be one.

So we pray for the unity of your Church.

Lord, hear us. **And unite us.**

On this night, He prayed for those who were to believe through His disciples’ message.

So we pray for the mission of your Church.

Lord, hear us. **And renew our zeal.**

On this night, He commanded His disciples to love,

but suffered rejection himself.

So we pray for the rejected and unloved.

Lord, hear us. **And fill us with your love.**

On this night, He reminded His disciples

that if the world hated them it hated Him first.

So we pray for those who are persecuted for their faith.

Lord, hear us. A**nd give us your peace.**

On this night, He accepted the cup of death

and looked forward to the new wine of the kingdom.

And so we remember those who have died in the peace of Christ.

Lord, hear us. **And welcome all your children into paradise.**

**And all the people said Amen.**

**COMMUNION**

As the rest of you are not able to receive Communion today, we’re going to do something that is new to us all. Catherine and I will receive the Bread and the Wine on behalf of all of you at home: not just for ourselves. And whilst we do, you are all invited to imagine the actual ‘Last Supper’ as if you were there in the Upper Room. You are invited to ‘see with your eyes closed’.

**First we will share the Peace.**

Jesus says: ‘Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.’

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Share that Peace with those who are with you – or, if you are on your own – imagine sharing it with others of the LHC family.

Now those of you who are not on Facebook, read each point below, then close your eyes and take time to imagine the scene before going to the next point. (On Facebook, simply be led by me.)

* **Close your eyes and be still. Ask God to bless your imagination so that you can see the ‘Last Supper’ in a new way.**
* **Now try to picture yourself present in the Upper Room that first Maundy Thursday. Where are you in the room?**
* **Picture who else is there and where they’re sitting. Is it light or is it dark? What is on the table? Where is Jesus? What is He wearing? What does He look like? Is it noisy or quiet?**
* **Take your time to absorb the scene.**
* **Now imagine Jesus taking the bread in His hands, saying thank you to God for the bread, breaking it and giving it to all who are there at the Supper – including you. Hear Him saying, ‘Take this and eat it; this is My body which is given for you.’ Look at the bread in your hands. Think about how it is for you the Body of Jesus. But don’t yet eat it.**
* **Now picture Jesus taking the cup of wine in His hands, thanking God for the wine, and then giving it to everyone who is there – including you. How does it feel to be given the cup by Jesus himself? How does it feel for Him to say to you, ‘Drink this. This is My blood of the new covenant which is poured out for you.’ Think about how the wine is for you the blood of Jesus. But don’t yet drink it.**

If you are watching on Facebook, stay in the scene as you listen to me blessing the Bread and Wine of Communion.

And, as Catherine and I receive Communion,

* **Picture yourself eating the bread. How does it feel to be given the bread by Jesus and then to eat it?**
* **Picture yourself drinking the wine. How does it feel to be given the wine by Jesus and then to drink it?**
* Say thank you to Him for the way in which He feeds you, physically and spiritually each day.
* Feel the strengthening that the bread and wine give you to face the present times.

*Afterwards, let’s pray this prayer together:*

Lord Jesus Christ,

**we thank you that in a wonderful sacrament**

**you have given us the memorial of your passion:**

**grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries**

**of your body and blood**

**that we may know within ourselves**

**and show forth in our lives**

**the fruit of your redemption,**

**for you are alive and reign, now and for ever. Amen.**

After the Last Supper had ended, Jesus went with the disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane where He prayed that He might have the strength to do the Father’s will.

Lord, we thank you that Christ was obedient unto death.

Go in his peace. **Amen**

…………..

On FB, to end tonight’s worship, Catherine will now read a short story about Jesus and the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. There is no song to end, as on Maundy Thursday evening traditionally we keep silence after the worship, watching with Jesus in prayer for an hour or so. We invite you to do this – after our 8pm clapping.

**Good Friday Worship Friday 2.00pm**



*READ THIS SECTION BEFORE WORSHIP BEGINS:*

*Welcome to our worship together, at home.*

*Please have a Bible and paper & pen by your side for your use and, for those of you who are watching live on Facebook, we suggest that you have the links to today’s song already open and set to play as our worship comes to an end -so that you can sing it without delay and with sincerity!*

*………………..*

*WELCOME & INTRODUCTION:*

*Again I invite you to take this moment to stop whatever else you are doing as we prepare to remember the darkest of days.*

*This is God’s time. Sit with Him. Endure the pain of this day with Him.*

*Today you are again going to meet with Jesus where He is, rather than Him come to you.*

*And know that you are not alone. All of us who love Jesus are with Him and His Father today. Know that we are worshipping together, even though we can’t see each other. Together we are here as our way of saying sorry for the part that we each play in nailing Jesus to the Cross.*

*Remember that we are one in the Lord.*

*If you aren’t following the service on FB, we suggest that, if you are alone, you say the prayers and readings aloud. If you are with others, choose someone to lead and the rest of you join in with the words in bold. On FB, simply join in the words in bold.*

*……………*

*We begin by keeping five full minutes of silent prayer during which we remember all that Jesus went through on the first Good Friday.*

*I now pray:*

Eternal God,

in the cross of Jesus

we see the cost of our sin

and the depth of your love:

in humble hope and fear

may we place at his feet

all that we have and all that we are,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*I have encouraged you all to read the full account of the Passion: Matthew 26 & 27 earlier this week.*

*Now Catherine will read the story of Good Friday from ‘The Jesus Storybook Bible’ to those watching on Facebook.*

*Next our New Testament readings:*

Philippians 2:5-11 & 1 Peter 2:20-25

*POINTS TO PONDER:*

* Yesterday, at our Maundy Thursday worship, I said that this weekend we are trying to get better at ‘learning to close our eyes so that we can see things more clearly- so that we can see with what the Bible calls ‘the eyes of our heart.’
* This might be quite a new thing for you. We rightly have a strong reverence for God’s words in the Bible – but God can and does also speak through the ‘imagination of our hearts’. He did in the days of the great patriarchs, Abraham and Moses, who lived before the Bible was written. And now He still speaks to us when we make time to be still with Him.
* Indeed perhaps now He especially likes to meet us in His beloved Son, Jesus.
* So let’s be still to welcome Jesus.
* ‘A picture paints a 1,000 words’ they say. Look and listen at what God places on your heart as Jesus comes to you.
* Trust that the pictures that come to you and that the words you might hear as you watch ARE inspired by the Spirit.
* If they reflect the truth of what we read in the Bible, and if they give God the glory, they will be from Him.
* Because God will never contradict his written Word! Expect Him to be glorified in whatever you see.

**So now I invite you again, ‘to close your eyes so that you can see things more clearly.’**

* Close your eyes, be still, let your breathing slow down and become steadier. Become aware of Jesus and the path that He trod on the first Good Friday. Ask Him to inspire your imagination – to give you true pictures and words.
* Now, in your mind and heart, picture the scene at Calvary that first Good Friday. Take your time to absorb all that is going on around you. You’ve just heard the Bible reading. Now tune into the flow of pictures that it stirs in your heart.
* What is going on? Who is there? Whereabouts is each person in the scene? Are they standing, or sitting? What are they doing? Jeering? Weeping? Cheering? Looking at Jesus on the cross? Indifferent?
* What about Jesus himself? What can you see of Him? If you can’t see His actual face, don’t worry. I sometimes struggle to see His face, too.
* Is Jesus speaking at all? If yes, what is He saying? Who is He speaking to?
* And where are you in the scene? Close to the Cross? Far away?
* How do you feel about being present at the Cross?
* Ask yourself: what does the Cross mean to me?
* Do I really understand what Jesus – the Son of the Living God – did for me?
* Watch Jesus call out to His Father in agony as He feels the desolation of having been abandoned.
* Watch Jesus die.
* See the skies darken and know that the Temple curtain has been torn in two.
* Hear it said: ‘Truly this man was the Son of God.
* Now ask yourself again, what does the Cross mean to me?
* What difference has what Jesus did for me on the Cross made to my life?
* What more can I do to say ‘Sorry, Jesus’?
* What more can I do to say ‘Thank you, Jesus’?
* Keep asking yourself these questions throughout what remains of today.

*Now, find a Cross to place in front of you - to remind you of the death of Jesus on THE Cross on the first Good Friday. Spend some time looking at it.*

*Then sing – or say:*

**When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God
All the vain things that charm me most,**

**I sacrifice them to His blood.**

**See from his head, his hands, His feet,**

**Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small,
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

*PRAYER TIME:*

*Catherine will lead our prayers on FB.*

Let us pray to the Father who loved the world so much that He sent his only Son to die to give us life.

Simon from Cyrene was forced to carry the cross for Your Son.

Give us grace to lift heavy loads from those we meet

and to stand with those condemned to die.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

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Your Son watched the soldiers gamble to share His clothes.

Transform the hearts of those who make a profit from their victims, and those whose hearts are hardened by their work.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

The thief, who was crucified with Jesus, was promised a place in Your kingdom.

Give pardon and hope, healing and peace to all who look death in the face.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

From the cross Jesus entrusted Mary His mother and John His disciple to each other’s care.

Help us also to care for one another and fill our homes with the spirit of Your love.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

In Mary and John, Your Son created a new family at the cross.

Fill our relationships and those of new families today with mutual care and responsibility. And give us a secure hope for the future.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

The centurion was astonished to see Your glory in the

crucified Messiah.

Open the eyes of those who do not know You to see in Your Son the meaning of life and death.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Joseph of Arimathaea came to take Your Son’s body away.

Give hope and faith to the dying and bereaved, and gentleness and strength to those who minister to them.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Simon and Joseph, Mary and John, became part of Your Church in Jerusalem.

Bring into Your Church today a varied company of people,

to walk with Christ in the way of His passion and to find their salvation in the victory of His cross.

Lord of the Church,

**Hear our prayers.**

**Make us one in heart and mind to serve you in Christ our Lord. Amen**.

*We now conclude our prayers with the Lord’s Prayer:*

**Our Father, who art in Heaven……**

*And:*

**Most merciful God,**

**who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, delivered and saved the world:**

**Grant that by faith in Him who suffered on the cross**

**We may triumph in the power of His victory;**

**through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,**

**who is alive and reigns with You,**

**in the unity of the Holy Spirit,**

**one God, now and for ever. Amen**

**FINAL WORD:**

* By the end of the first Good Friday, it looked to everyone who had lived through it as if all hope had gone.
* It looked as if all of the plans and dreams of the disciples had died a cruel death, at the same time that their Master had died.
* The world was black. Their hearts were black.
* They were lost, confused and in despair.
* Perhaps not unlike the hearts of many across the world today who are living in fear and who have lost loved ones.

But we now know better:

* We know that Jesus’ death was actually the moment of the greatest victory ever.
* It was the forever victory of God and good over Sin, Death and the devil.
* So we can be encouraged and we can encourage others that confusion, fear and even despair will not have the last word.
* Even death need not have the last word.
* Jesus has conquered death.
* And on Easter Day we will celebrate what that means for each one of us who believes in Him.
* What it means not just for the life we are promised after the death of our earthly bodies.
* But also what it means for the life that we are living now – even in the midst of the Coronavirus.

**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

**Final Song: How Deep the Father’s Love**

**Easter Day Worship:**

**The Day of Resurrection, Earth tell it out Aloud.**

**10.30am Sunday 12th April**

READ THIS SECTION BEFORE WORSHIP BEGINS:

* Today you will need a Bible and a candle beside you as you prepare to worship - plus something to use to light the candle.
* For those of you who are watching live on Facebook, as usual we suggest that you have the links to today’s songs already open and set to play - so that you can sing them straight after the livestreaming ends, as the last part of your worship!

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WELCOME & INTRODUCTION:

By now you will know the routine:

* Once again I invite you to take this moment to stop whatever else you are doing.
* This is God’s time. Sit comfortably. Remember God is with you. He is truly there.
* And today, as you picture our church family all joining you to worship God in this moment in their own homes, imagine them all celebrating.
* Know that we are celebrating together, even though we can’t see each other.
* Today is the biggest celebration of the Christian year.
* Chris is risen! Be glad – even in the present difficult times, take time to be glad and rejoice!

As usual:

* If you aren’t following the service on FB, we suggest that, if you are alone, you say the prayers and readings aloud. If you are with others, choose someone to lead and the rest of you join in with the words in bold.
* On FB, simply join in the words in bold.

……………..

We begin with these words, proclaiming God’s sovereignty:

Christ yesterday and today.

**The beginning and the end,**

Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to Him, and all ages;

T**o Him be glory and power,** **through every age and for ever. Amen.**

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of God. As we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done, we can be confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever.

Now light your candle, then say – or listen to – these words:

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,

banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

Now we all say – several times, getting louder each time:

**The Light of Christ! Thanks be to God!**

We all say several times – getting louder each time:

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

And together we pray this prayer:

**God of glory,**

**by the raising of your Son**

**You have broken the chains of death and hell:**

**fill Your Church with faith and hope;**

**for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.  Amen.**

Now read – or listen to – Matthew 28.1-10

POINTS TO PONDER

* Across this weekend, I’ve been trying to lead us in learning how to close our eyes so that we can better see what’s really going on. I’m going to do the same this morning, though in a slightly different way.
* As they left the empty tomb that first Easter morning, the women were met by Jesus himself: risen and alive!
* He spoke to them: ‘Greetings! Don’t be afraid!’ He said to them.
* Then He gave them a specific instruction, ‘Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’
* As Christians, we believe that Jesus, once risen from the dead, is alive forever. Romans 6:9 wonderfully tells us that ‘Christ raised from the dead dies no more, death has no more dominion over him.’
* And as we know and proclaim that Jesus is living and his Spirit is near – that He is not just a figure from history, but a living Saviour with whom we can have a living relationship today – we can also lay claim to a relationship with Him that is every bit as real as the ones we have with others who are still on earth now.
* In this we’re just like the New Testament figures, Stephen, Saul (Paul) and John, who themselves had real encounters with the living Jesus after He had gone back up to heaven. Jesus appeared to them and spoke to them in their daily lives.
* Yet in the present age so many of us don’t readily hear Jesus speak or see Him, so today I want to suggest ways in which we can all open up our hearts to Him. In fact, let’s do it together now:
* First, let’s be aware of stilling ourselves.
* Let’s close our physical eyes.
* Be patient with yourself. It might take a few moments.
* Now let’s ask Jesus to open the eyes of our hearts. Ask Him to work through our imaginations.
* But today, rather than me inviting us all to imagine ourselves into the days when Jesus was on the earth - as we did on Thursday and Friday - I want to invite us into the reality that Jesus is truly alive today, so that there’s no reason that He can’t be with us right where we are in this moment.
* So now take time to picture Him in the room beside you.
* Know that He is real: notice the things about Him that you would notice about anyone visiting your home.
* Where is He in the room? Is He standing or sitting? If He’s sitting, where has He chosen to sit?
* What is He wearing? Traditional Middle Eastern clothes or clothes that are more familiar to us? What’s on his feet – if anything?
* Suspend your western rational thought and trust that what you can see is from the Holy Spirit.
* Now notice what you feel as you are close to Him.
* He’s just come out of the other side of an horrific death. Can you see the triumphant light that shines from Him?
* Can you feel His joy, His peace, His triumph?
* Can you see the smile on His face? His laughter, even?
* Perhaps He has something to say to you. Try to listen to his voice. If He speaks, attend to his words. Keep hold of them. Remember them. Treasure them.
* He is Your Lord and King. Know that He loves you. He is here to spend time with you. You are His friend. He rejoices in You.
* Thank Him for what He has just done for you.
* If you feel ready and able, maybe offer Him your life in a way that you have never done before.
* See His joy when you do.
* Now open your eyes gently and rejoin our shared worship.

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES.

Having just met with Jesus, now is the right time to make or renew our promises to Him:

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

  **I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

  **I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

 **I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

 **I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

 **I come to Christ.**

May Almighty God who has given you the desire to follow Christ give you the strength to continue in the way.

Together we profess the faith of the Church:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,** **suffered under Pontius Pilate,** **was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;** **he ascended into heaven,** **he is seated at the right hand of the Father,** **and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,** **the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,** **the resurrection of the body,** **and the life everlasting.** **Amen.**

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship,

in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

 **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you acknowledge Christ’s authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

**With the help of God, I will.**

May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith, that we may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

**And also with you. Alleluia!**

Share that Peace with those who are with you – or, if you are on your own – imagine sharing it with others of the LHC family

On Facebook, I will now bless the Bread and Wine of Communion. As the rest of you are not able to receive Communion today, Catherine and I will receive the Bread and the Wine on behalf of all of you at home: not just for ourselves. Whilst we do, I invite you all to imagine yourselves in Church coming up to receive Communion in the usual way. This is called receiving a ‘Spiritual Communion.’

I invite those of you who are not able to access the Live FB video to read 1 Corinthians 11.23-26 and then imagine themselves receiving the Bread and the Wine of Communion in Church.

Before imagining yourself receiving Communion, say:

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,**

**but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

After this act of faith that the Lord has fed us, we pray together the Lord’s Prayer: **Our Father……**

 And our church prayer: ‘**Spirit lead us where our trust….**

And finally this Prayer:

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory. May we who are members of Christ’s body live his risen life and bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

On Facebook, Catherine now reads the ‘Jesus Storybook Bible version of Easter Day which ends with Mary going to spread the good news: as must we!

And we proclaim:

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All   **He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All   **He has given us new life and hope**

**by raising Jesus from the dead.**

God has claimed us as his own.

All   **He has brought us out of darkness.**

**He has made us light to the world.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All   **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Let’s go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All   **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

*……Now go to the link to our 3 songs of triumph to finish!*

**PRAYERS FOR THE SATURDAY OF HOLY WEEK** April 11th 2020 **-** for private use at home

Light a candle, if you can. Open your Bible at Matthew 27

Now be still and become aware of God’s presence: relax in his presence and open your heart to God.

When you’re ready, read through ***Matthew 27: 55-66;*** perhaps read it several times.

Ask God to speak to you today as you reflect on the reading and listen to what He is saying to you.

Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joses, sit opposite the tomb where Jesus is laid. They had been travelling with Jesus and the disciples; supporting them. Their love and trust in Jesus would have grown as they listened to his gentle voice and witnessed the miracles He performed; they must have expected great things of the future. But instead now they watch as after the horrifying and humiliating crucifixion, Jesus’ body is laid in the tomb. I

Let us join the two women and sit opposite the tomb and wait and watch. For us, this difficult year, it is a time of sitting, waiting, watching, praying and hoping in the dark. But, unlike the two Marys, we know that nothing is impossible for Jesus. Although the situation looks bleak God’s plan was and is and will be beyond our wildest hopes and dreams. Let us sit quietly and listen and wait for all to be revealed on Easter Sunday. Amen.

Now take time to pray.

God our Father, your Son, Jesus Christ, was obedient to the end and drank the cup prepared for Him may we watch with Him through this time of suffering.

Lord God,
On the Sabbath,
Jesus rested.
He was in the grave.
He had finished his work.
To most people’s eyes,
It looked as if it were all over.
He was dead and buried.
But only as a seed dies when it is planted in the earth,
Not to decay, but to spring to new life.
Teach us to take refuge in you when we are afraid
Teach us that death is not our end
Teach us to hope always in you
and in the resurrection, the making of all things
new.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

**Our Father……**

And our church prayer:

**Spirit lead us where our trust is without borders
Let us walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call us. Take us deeper than our feet could ever wander
And our faith will be made stronger
In the presence of our Saviour. Amen**

**NIGHT PRAYER FOR EASTER WEEK** (that’s the week AFTER Easter Day)

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.  **Amen**

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth. **Amen.**

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

*Spend a short time reflecting on your day and say sorry to God for anything you have done that you believe would make Him sad.*

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever**. Amen. Alleluia.**

Psalm 134

1. Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord \* You that stand by night in the house of the Lord.
2. Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the Lord \* The Lord who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Say this prayer

**May we, Lord, who walk in the light of your presence acclaim your Christ, rising victorious, as he banishes all darkness from hearts and minds, now and for ever. Amen.**

**New Testament Reading – Revelation 22.4-5**

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God, whose name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night: they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for God will their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

*Now say your personal prayers: remembering perhaps five of your neighbouring households and five further afield.*

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
**For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.**Keep me as the apple of your eye.
**Hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

Let’s remember that Christ died for us, **so that, whether we wake or sleep,
we might live with him.**

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
**For you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

Abide with us, Lord Jesus, **for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**

As the night watch looks for the morning,
**so do we look for you, O Christ.**

**Visit we beseech you Lord this house.**

**Drive far away from it all of the snares of the evil one.**

**May Your holy angels dwell here with us tonight**

**To keep us in Your peace.**

**And may Your blessing be upon us this night and forever more. Amen.**

**WORSHIP SONG & HYMN LYRICS**

**GOOD FRIDAY**

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure

How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Songwriters: Stuart Townend

How Deep The Father's Love For Us lyrics © Capitol Christian Music Group

**EASTER DAY**

**IN CHRIST ALONE**

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Songwriters: Keith Getty / Stuart Townend In Christ Alone lyrics © Capitol Christian Music Group

**SEE, WHAT A MORNING**

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!

Songwriters: Townend Stuart Christopher Andrew / Getty Julian Keith

See, What A Morning lyrics © Worshiptogether.com Songs

**COME, PEOPLE OF THE RISEN KING**

Come, people of the risen King,
Who delight to bring Him praise.
Come, all and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!

Come, those whose joy is morning sun
And those weeping through the night.
Come, those who tell of battles won,
And those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change,
And His mercies never cease,
But follow us through all our days
With the certain hope of peace.

Come, young and old from every land,
Men and women of the faith.
Come, those with full or empty hands,
Find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world, His people sing,
Shore to shore we hear them call
The Truth that cries through every age;
‘Our God is all in all’.

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