

twelvebaskets



EASTER SUNDAY C

A complete Sunday service ready to use
for worship and inspire ideas in your church

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Easter Sunday - Year C
20th April 2025



Order of Service

Call to worship

Hymn:

305 STF – Low in the grave he lay OR

309 STF – See, what a morning, gloriously bright

Opening Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

Hymn:

298 STF – Christ the Lord is risen today; Alleluia! OR

247 STF – I danced in the morning

Readings: Isaiah 65: 17-25, Acts 10: 34-43, Luke 24: 1-12

Hymn:

293 STF – All heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord OR

151 STF – This is the day the Lord has made

Reflections on the readings

Hymn:

295 STF – Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord OR

188 STF – There's a light upon the mountains

Intercessions

Offering / collection

Blessing the offering

Hymn:

487 STF – You shall go out with joy OR

313 STF – Thine be the glory

Blessing

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Call to worship

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed, alleluia!
Happy Easter to you!

Today is the day we celebrate the resurrection,
The day we recognise the potential for new life,
The day we get to look for the miracle of God overcoming evil and darkness,
In the Jesus story, but also in our own lives.
Let us come and worship God,

Amen.¹

Hymn:

305 STF – Low in the grave he lay OR
309 STF – See, what a morning, gloriously bright

Opening Prayers

Heavenly, holy God,
You are in our midst,
Here by your Spirit, guiding, prompting, comforting, holding.
Help us to notice you, as we worship, this Easter Sunday,
We pray.

Loving, living Lord,
You have blessed us with so much,
And today we give thanks for this new day, the start of a new week, the opportunity to love
and to be loved afresh.
Let us take a moment to give thanks for the other things in our lives that we are grateful for
– why not share them with the people sitting next to you: just something you are thankful
for this day.

*[Give people space to do that for a few minutes. You could invite some people to share
with the wider congregation].*

Thank you Lord, you hear our prayers, we know.

Gracious, generous God,
You accept us just as we are, and invite us to come to your table,
Regardless of where we have gone wrong,
Of where we have failed, or where we have fallen short of your glory.
We come to you and say sorry again this day.
May each of us know ourselves to be forgiven by your remarkable, resurrection power, this
Easter season.

Come, Easter God,
Come and give us a new lease of life this day,

Amen.²

¹ Call to worship written by Tim Baker

² Opening prayers written by Tim Baker

We say together the Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

What gadget, game or toy excites you? Is it something new? Is it something that improves your life?

I wonder whether those around you would like to hear you talking about it?

[Give people space to share in groups]

For a couple of years I noticed people started talking about air fryers, they have become a cultural anomaly as the George Foreman Grill defined the 90s kitchen, the Panini Press the 00s, Spiraliser the 10s then the Air Fryer defines the 2020s.

I didn't actually have one at first, people kept on talking about them and eventually, chatting to a friend they admitted they had one, but they had fallen out of favour with it, after a few minutes they offered it to my family for free. So over the following weeks we started using it, experimenting with various foods and ideas, and before long my friend started to ask about what recipes I was making, it would be a regular conversation starter 'what are you making this week?' and not only with my friend but others around me were asking too. Eventually my friend finally admitted that they had now bought a brand new one because we had talked about it so much.

This sort of praise and review is like the good news of Easter, that if we accept Jesus, recognising what he did on the cross and his resurrection – it can really change and transform lives; so much so that others will notice, and as we go about our day to day lives we'll naturally be excitable and chatty about it.

I wonder what do you get excited about? Are there places and spaces where you could get excited about the miracle of resurrection this week?³

Hymn:

298 STF – Christ the Lord is risen today; Alleluia! OR

247 STF – I danced in the morning

Readings: Isaiah 65: 17-25, Acts 10: 34-43, Luke 24: 1-12

Hymn:

293 STF – All heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord OR

151 STF – This is the day the Lord has made

³ All Age Talk written by Mark Stennett

Reflections on the readings

93, 49, 14,056 and 1.1

What do these numbers have in common?

[Take some suggestions / guesses]

93 is the number of women who speak in the Bible;

49 is the number of women who are actually named;

14,056 – this is the actual number of words spoken by women in the Bible (they were counted by a group led by Episcopal priest Rev Lindsay Hardin Freeman, in 2014).

and 1.1 per cent – the percentage of the Bible which records women's speech.

Only 1.1 per cent of words in the Bible are spoken by women. I wonder if you have ever noticed that before?

Luke's Gospel tells us that the women who went to the tomb on the Day of Resurrection were given a hard time by Jesus' disciples when they tried to share their amazing news that the stone had been rolled away and Jesus was not there. In verse 11, we read "But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense."

I wonder what you would have thought if you had been there? Would you have believed the women? Would you have assumed they were being ridiculous and over emotional? Of course Jesus is still in the tomb – isn't he?

[Invite people to spend a few minutes talking to their neighbour about their initial reactions to these questions – what would it have been like if you'd been there?]

It was only when the impetuous and curious disciple Peter ran to have a look that he realised that the women were telling the truth.

The reading is joyful – it is an account of the resurrection which spreads out slowly, like light from a sunrise. As we read, more and more is revealed. But it also reflects the culture from which it was written. In that community, at that time, the law said that women's evidence did not even count in a court case. So a woman's testimony was often discounted – as uncomfortable as that may make us feel.

This reading also asks questions of us. Who do we listen to? Who do we trust to tell us the truth? And perhaps the most challenging question, in this world of fake news and misinformation. Who do we believe – and who do we believe in?

[Invite the congregation to have a conversation about the things they believe in. How does the Easter story fit into this list of things?]

Easter Sunday is a day when we roll away the stone of our doubts and say with confidence – Jesus is risen – He is risen indeed – Alleluia!

Note: If you would like to read more: Bible Women – All Their Words and Why They Matter by Lindsay Hardin Freeman and Women of Holy Week: An Easter Journey in Nine Stories by Paula Gooder.⁴

Hymn:

295 STF – Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord OR

188 STF – There's a light upon the mountains

⁴ Reflection written by Mandy Briggs

Prayers of intercession

God of truth and love, we thank you for the Good News of the Resurrection – that Jesus is alive!

Help us to hear the words of the women who went to the tomb, that the stone has been rolled away and new hope has come.

Help us to hear these words not just in our heads but in our hearts as we celebrate Easter together.

Hear our prayers and heal our world

God of truth and love, we live in a world where fake news and misinformation are rife.

Help us to seek the truth and consider what we read and what we share.

We pray for journalists, bloggers and writers who seek to work with integrity and tell the truth about global events.

We pray that world leaders may speak and listen carefully and graciously, working for true peace and unity.

Hear our prayers and heal our world

God of truth and love, we pray for our community.

Help us to listen not just to the stories of those we know well, but also to those people whose words are not often heard.

We pray for people who may be treated with suspicion, but who have powerful stories to share.

We pray for connection as individuals and as a church, that strangers may become friends as we tell our stories together.

Hear our prayers and heal our world

God of truth and love, help us to share words of love and comfort with those we know who are struggling with illness, bereavement and other difficult situations.

When we face our own challenges, help us to hold the Good News about Jesus' resurrection in our hearts and know that you are always with us.

Surround everyone in need with your love and care.

Hear our prayers and heal our world

Thanks be to God.

Amen.⁵

We will now take up the offering.

God of all grace,

God who gives us the gifts to survive and who desires our thriving,

God who has blessed each and every one of us,

We come to you in thanks.

We are grateful, and offer you these simple tokens by way of our gratitude.

God who loves and guides us, accept these gifts,

And may they be used for the building of a better, brighter, safer world,

In Jesus' name

Amen.⁶

⁵ Prayers of intercession written by Mandy Briggs

⁶ Additional prayers by Tim Baker

Hymn:

487 STF – You shall go out with joy OR

313 STF – Thine be the glory

Blessing

Let us end with a poem written for Easter, and drawing on this year's Soul Food resources from the Methodist Church:

Life springs
Forward all around and things
Burst from buds and soil.
Creation spills bubbling
Over valleys and hills and
Fills me with unexpected
Unlooked for wonder.

This season of living
Is giving
My soul a fresh hope,
Fresh food for the journey.

So come, tuck in, flavours abound
Like the grace all around
That flows from above and below,
Pouring out of the ground.

Come join us at the table,
Come see what we've found:
A story that's satisfying
About an undying,
Unifying,
Dignifying,
Love.

A love that's around, and within,
And above,
A love that emerges like a glistening white dove,
Seeking peace
Finding rest
Sharing joy
And putting hope within reach
Of each and every one of us.

Amen.⁷

⁷ Additional prayers by Tim Baker