



Easter Worship at Home—4 April 2021

Call to Worship

The long wait is over
The Tomb is empty
The Grave clothes folded
Jesus is Risen
He is Risen Indeed

Halleluia!

Prayer of Approach and Confession

Risen Lord,
we are the Easter people, and Alleluia is our song.
We are the Easter people come to worship,
released from tombs of pain and doubt and fear and death
into the freedom of this new day,
and its promise of hope fulfilled.
We are the Easter people,
Emerging into the brightness of faith,



It is with great sadness
that we have to
intimate the death of

Sheenagh Hardie
At Braid Hills Care
Home on Saturday
27 March.

Sheenagh's funeral will
be held on Wednesday
14 April at 12 Noon in
the graveyard at Currie
Kirk

Please pray for her
brother Alastair and his
family at this very sad
time.

Blinking, questioning, wondering, hoping.
Come to us, into the garden of our lives,
and touch all that is barren, and wasted and dried
with Your healing hand.
Forgive our half-lived lives,
our broken promises, and our failed kindness.
Call to us by our name,
that we might turn from all that limits and burdens us,
and lift us up into forgiveness and freedom.
Open the gateways of our hearts and minds,
and call us out into Your world to be
embraced by Your unfailing and renewing mercy.
Today, in silence, prayer and song,
may we encounter Jesus and His grace.
For we are the Easter people, and Alleluia is our song.
We pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever.
Amen

Scripture Reading: John 20: 1-18—The Empty Tomb

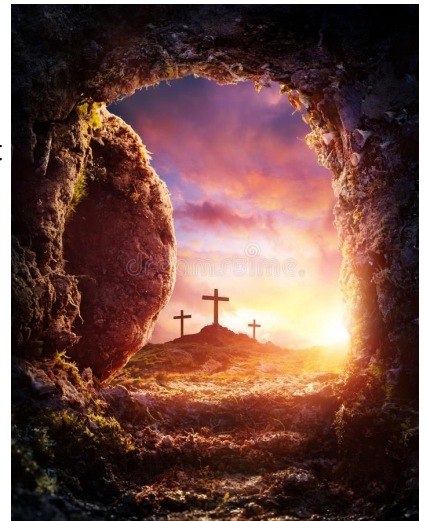
Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”



“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realise that it was Jesus.

He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.



This is the Word of the Lord

Meditation

This is the season of Easter. Behind me is the beautiful banner proclaiming, He is Risen!

In the following weeks we will read about Jesus’ varied appearances to his disciples.

All the Gospel accounts invite us to identify with the minds and moods of the disciples after Calvary. We recall the women at the foot of the cross as the sky turned black. We recall disciples cowering in fear behind bolted and barricaded doors in an upper room in Jerusalem. The twelve men had left their old lives and pinned every hope to the Rabbi from Nazareth. They had heard around the campfire of the Kingdom of God. They had seen the transfigured vision on the Mountain. They had watched him calm the storm and pacify the waves on the boat. They had miracles of healing that blew their minds and heard teachings at the kitchen table about a transformed world. They had seen him praised and cheered as he journeyed into Jerusalem on a Donkey.

But now, . . . now on every face there was dejection, hopelessness, irretrievable loss. Everything was at an end. Dazed and bewildered they sat in silence, too heartbroken to speak, too numb to pray.

In all the Gospels it is recorded that we find the women first going to the place of Jesus burial. There is a wee cartoon, perhaps you have seen it where three women are standing to the left at the open tomb and on the right there are a dozen or so men who say:

“Well done for discovering the Resurrection, ladies, now we’ll take it from here!”

Perhaps the importance of women being the story is a lovely testament in this year when so much has been made of how far women still have to come to be safe, respected or equal.

The eagerness of the women is well documented in all the gospels. Mark and Luke tell us that they were hastening to the Sepulchre 'very early in the morning.' Mathew says, "as it began to dawn." And in John's Gospel we read, "when it was yet dark." In John's Gospel the women were anxious to offer their deserted and crucified Lord one last expression of devotion to Him. They came bearing spices and ointments, desperately longing to make his bruised, and weary body restful for the long night of death.

Since lockdown there have been many deaths and funerals of people we all know. Perhaps one of the most painful aspects of lockdown bereavements is that often families were not allowed to see their loved ones as they were dying, not allowed to touch them or tend to them. Even at the funerals there is the sparse absence of friends, the lack of song, the inability to hug or meet together to lift the grief. Our rituals to the lost are painful small ministry of what we can offer our loved ones after death. Even in lockdown, this still means a lot . . . a small amount of dirt sprinkled upon a casket, flowers laid upon the grave.

In John's account, Mary Magdalene is first at the garden. She has found herself standing before an empty tomb. She is weeping. Logically someone has stolen the body. A voice tenderly says to her, "woman why are you weeping?" It is the voice of Jesus.

She ran to tell Peter and John and the rest that Jesus was no longer in his tomb of death. There are sceptics and cynics who might read this story and think, surely this is a matter of a heart ruling the head. This woman suffering from uncontrollable grief has become deluded with ridiculous imaginings that can happen in such a distressing circumstance.

But he had risen. He had risen indeed. We soon learn about subsequent appearances to the others. To the frightened disciples, "Peace be with you." Said Jesus. Later he appeared to a doubtful Thomas whose response to the Risen Lord comes from the depths of his being, "My Lord and My God!". And yet to more disconsolate disciples, Cleopas and friends on their walk to Emmaus and in the blessing of wine and breaking of bread.

We wonder why all this fuss about the Resurrection. People often tell me that they believe that Jesus was a wise teacher and a compassionate healer but that is as fair as any faith will take them.

I saw a cartoon the other day which made me laugh. There is a minister in his church office saying goodbye to a Parishioner. The Church secretary is typing over in the corner listening on. The Parishioner explains to her minister, "Look I am a spiritual person. I just don't believe in organised religion." At this point the secretary pipes up, "No need to worry there, he is certainly NOT ORGANISED!"

The Resurrection which we proclaim and celebrate today is at the core of our faith. If we take away the belief in Resurrection, we might as well remove the foundation stone from a building and assuredly it would collapse. Without the Resurrection, the New Testament would not have been written. Every act of public worship, every shared Communion proclaims the truth and the power of The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The first apostles did not celebrate merely because it was a miraculous survival after death. They were not interested in proof of a hereafter. They knew that the Resurrection had greater significance, because it was a great cosmic event, done by God, comparable to what God had achieved at the first creation. This was the beginning of a new era, a turning point for all humanity. Those frightened disciples became dynamic apostles, messengers with news that in the Resurrection, a new age had arrived. Every person could have a new relationship with God through the transforming power of the Risen Christ.

The apostles saw in the Resurrection a great victory of good over evil, right over wrong. Love was stronger than hate and the power of death itself overcome by the will of God. People often point out that

hate, sin and death still exist. They ask, what about racism? What about military dictatorships, tribal genocides, human rights violations . . . nuclear warheads and deadly illnesses. The promise of the Resurrection is that in Jesus, our final break with sin can be achieved. The Resurrection offers the challenge of being with Jesus and in him we play our part in helping establish God's Kingdom on earth. A Kingdom where truth and justice prevail, where the hungry are fed, the oppressed freed, the wounded healed.

In this way the Resurrection is at the heart of all we believe. It was the Resurrection that brought about the birth of the Church. The Disciples never planned to establish a Church. Rather, they discovered that Christ's Divine Energy in them directed them to continue the life of Christ amongst all people for all generations to come. Hence why Saint Paul referred to the Church as the 'Body of Christ.'

The Church is not a building, a religious club or an organisation, not a museum commemorating events from the past. When Christ's presence through the Holy Spirit is truly present in a church, we receive energy and direction to share the Presence of Christ in our life together.

There were always those who could not bring themselves to believe that the Crucifixion was the last word. There is a book written by John Masefield entitled "The Trial of Jesus." In this drama, there is a striking passage in which Longinus, the Roman Centurion in command of the soldiers at the cross, comes back to Pilate to hand in his report on the day's work. But Procula, Pilate's wife is also there. Suddenly she asks Longinus,

"Do you think He is dead?"

"No lady, I don't," he announced.

"Then where is He?" She presses.

"Set loose in the world, lady, where neither Roman nor Jew can stop his Truth."

This is why we celebrate Easter.

The Resurrection tells us that God is undeniably at work in the world, and that there is a victory over evil. God works through the Church, but ultimately we are all invited to share in Christ's risen life. There is power in the Resurrection. That power brings life, confidence, joy and hope through the real companionship of Jesus. He is the one voice who says, "I have come that you may have life in all its fullness." That life is an eternal life, but also a life that begins now. We celebrate because we have the blessing of being part of Christ's risen life.

Prayer of thanksgiving and intercession

Lord Jesus Christ,
Come, stand among us,
that we might see You by our side,
that we might hear You call our names,
that we might now, on this heady day of joy,
be still, right now, and know that You are God.
We give You heartfelt thanks from our full hearts.
We bring to You our prayers this day
For a world needing Easter.
We pray for those locked in by hurt, and loneliness and grief.
We pray for those locked in by addiction, and hunger, and poverty.
We pray that we, inspired by Your Good News this Easter Day,
may bring our practical care and help to those who call out,
and to those who are silent,
and in our lived-out faith and love, show no partiality
as we bring what hope we can to those in need.
Today we pray for our nation, for our Queen,
and for those who shape the future of our country and our world.
In times of uncertainty make us confident with kindness.
In times of frustration, make us gentle with vision.
Help us to be the Easter people bringing light into our world.
Lord Jesus Christ,
for the Church we pray, that in our work and witness
we may be generous in our believing,
and joyful in our serving.
Help us to blend tradition and newness,
to keep our faith and work a power for good,
and a dynamic for reconciliation and renewal.
This Easter Day, this new beginning, this time of lifting up,
lift up our heads and hearts, lift up our eyes and voices,
for our Lord Jesus Christ is risen!
And there is hope!
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Easter Morning Holy Communion

Because you broke bread

Lord Jesus Christ,

because you broke bread with the poor, you were looked on with contempt.

Because you broke bread with the sinful and outcast, you were looked on as ungodly.

Because you broke bread with the joyful, you were called a glutton and a drunkard.

Because you broke bread in the upstairs room, you sealed your acceptance of the way of the cross.

Because you broke bread on the beach, you made the scales fall from the disciples' eyes.

Because you broke bread and shared it, we will do so too, and ask your blessing.

Prayer of thanksgiving and consecration

God is with us.

The Spirit is here.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks to the giver of life.

For this we have been created.

It is our purpose and our joy,
our vocation and our delight,
at all times and in all places to worship you,
O God.

In the stillness of the morning as dawn brightens the world,
we gather to your light and to the name of Christ.

You have created us, and provided us with all we need for fullness of life;
and in Christ Jesus you affirm your unfailing love for us
and for your whole creation to all eternity.

We look for a time when there will be joy at sunrise
and peace at sunset, and all will be free as Christ is free,
now that death is swallowed up and only life remains.

Come, risen Christ.

Come, risen Christ.

We remember Jesus in the garden appearing to Mary and calling her by name.

Come, risen Christ.

Come, risen Christ.

And help us to remember that you know each of us intimately and that you call us by name.

We remember Jesus appearing to the disciples and saying, 'Peace be with you.'

Come, risen Christ!

Come, risen Christ!

And grant us your peace.

We remember Christ Jesus sharing bread and wine with his disciples on that night before he was betrayed.

Come, risen Christ!

Come, risen Christ!

And strengthen us to share our lives with others

We remember Jesus sharing breakfast on the beach with his companions.

Come, risen Christ!

Come, risen Christ!

And be to us the bread of life and the true vine.

So bless the bread we break and the cup we take.
Bless them and us as we offer ourselves to you in thanksgiving.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Come now, disturbing spirit of our God, breathe on these bodily things and make us one body in Christ. Open our graves, unbind our eyes, and name us here; touch and heal all that has been buried in us, that we need not cling to our pain, but may go forth with power to release resurrection in the world.

The Breaking of the Bread and the Taking of the Cup

At the last supper, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said:

***'This is my body, which is for you.
Do this to remember me.'***

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying:

***'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this whenever you drink it, to remember me.'***

The sharing of the bread and wine

This is the body of Christ, the bread of life,
broken for you, broken for all

This is the life of Christ, the true vine,
poured out for you, poured out for all.

Prayer

God of new life, you have given us hope through the resurrection of Christ Jesus.

Through the breaking of bread and the sharing of wine, we come to know new life in you.

Bless us in the sharing of this meal and send us forth to sing songs of thanksgiving and to share your risen love with others.

Amen

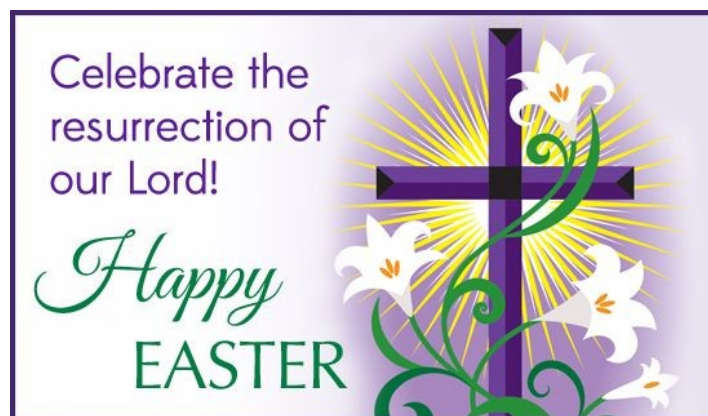
Blessing

Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father

Set out, then, on a new life with Christ.

And the blessing of God Almighty

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you,
and remain with you now and forever more.



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We have friends willing to listen, shop, walk a dog, fix a garden.

Website: [//www.curriekirk.org/](http://www.curriekirk.org/) or [//www.facebook.com/CurrieKirk/](https://www.facebook.com/CurrieKirk/)

All sermons from Currie Kirk can be found on the Kirk's website and on YouTube—search Currie Kirk



Currie Kirk Guild

Due to it being Holy Week, we had no Tuesday meeting. However, I did make a trip to the foodbank with a car full to the brim with 160 assorted Easter eggs, some groceries and £60 in cash so thank you all so much for your generous contributions. I am sure they will be gratefully received. A friend of mine did comment that it would have been quite amusing if I'd been in an accident or stopped for any reason – pictures of me covered in chocolate grinning happily!!

Our next meeting will be this Tuesday, 6 April at 10 am, when we will be treated to “The Life and Music of Ella Fitzgerald” presented by Derek Blyth. Certainly worth joining us for that. Email me at elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk if you would like the zoom link.



As our official Guild session draws to a close in the next few weeks—sadly there is no outing—Mary Thomson, our Project co-ordinator, is planning to send monies raised to Guild HQ so, if you would like to make a last minute contribution, please get in touch with her or post a donation through the door at the Gibson Craig—marked “Guild Project”. Obviously our fundraising activities over the past year have been non-existent so any donations would be extremely welcome. The chosen project was The Boys’ Brigade in Scotland.

I hope you have all had a blessed Holy Week and managed to join some of the online services—seems unbelievable that we are celebrating our second Easter in lockdown—hopefully next year we can all be together. Have a joyous Easter Day. Look after yourselves and take care of each other,

Louise Lamont Guild President

FreshStart
helping people make a home for themselves

Virtual kiltwalk
WEEKEND 23-25 APRIL 2021

WHAT IS IT?
The Kilt Walk is taking place virtually again this year in line with social distancing and making sure everyone stays safe! The beauty of this means YOU get to choose the distance and activity you would like to undertake to complete your Kilt Walk challenge. You might want to do the traditional walk, or you can run, cycle, whatever takes your fancy, last year someone even climbed Ben Nevis!

WHEN IS IT?
As the Kilt Walk is taking place virtually, it will take place across the weekend of 23rd – 25th April.

WHERE IS IT?
Anywhere you want! The excitement of the virtual walk allows you to plan your own route. You may want to carry out your Walk around the City and take in the sights, or you may want to head out East or West and explore the countryside and coastal trails.

WHO CAN DO IT?
Everyone is welcome to take part and as you are planning your own activity and route, you can tailor this to your level of fitness or choose to challenge yourself! Fresh Start have several staff teams taking part with their family and friends, so if you don't feel up to it, you can always sponsor Team Fresh Start. Whatever you choose to do, remember to bring plenty of water, wear sensible footwear and adhere to all social distancing guidelines.

WHY DO IT?
This is a great opportunity to get some exercise and do something that you enjoy and raise some much needed funds for Fresh Start. This year, the Hunter Foundation will match fund all monies raised by an amazing 50% meaning that for every £100 raised, Fresh Start will receive £150!

PLEASE COMPLETE THE REVERSE OF THIS FORM TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST IN TAKING PART OR TO SPONSOR TEAM FRESH START

FreshStart
helping people make a home for themselves

REGISTER INTEREST AND SPONSORSHIP FORM

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE PART IN: The 2021 Virtual Kiltwalk:

OR

I WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR: Team Fresh Start for the 2021 Kilt Walk for the sum of: £

Name:

Address:

Telephone number:

Email address:

I am a UK tax payer and would like this donation and future donations made to Fresh Start to be treated as Gift Aid:

In order for Fresh Start to benefit from the 50% match funding, I confirm that I am happy for Fresh Start to hold my personal information for processing and to pass on my details to The Kilt Walk and will be processed accordingly under GDPR regulations

Signed:

Date:

Please return this form to:
Fresh Start, 22 - 24 Ferry Road Drive, Edinburgh EH4 4BR

Easter Sunday

These resources are designed to help you explore the Bible as a family together at home while we can't go to church. Be as creative as you want to be and enjoy spending time with each other and with God.

Prepare yourself...

Dear God,
Thank you for the story of Easter and the empty tomb. Thank you that your plan did not end with death on the cross but with your resurrection and new life. Thank you that you made a way for us to be forgiven of all our mistakes and to be your friends forever.
Amen.



Question...

What things make you happy or sad?
Think about the last week and make a tally of the happy and sad things. Which has the most?

Challenge

Mystery objects

Blindfold a volunteer then put an object in their hands and ask them to describe it. Can they guess what it is?



Read the Bible...

Today's verses are found in John 20:1-18. You can read them in a Bible or find them [here](#). You could try reading the verses in different versions to see if it adds to your understanding of the passage. Think about all the different feelings there would have been in the story, can you draw an emoji for each one? This is another animation from Saddleback Kids that tells the whole of the Easter story: [The Story of Easter: Jesus' sacrifice](#)



Talk together...

Our lives are a mixture of sad and happy things, both are important. We can't escape the sad things in life, and sometimes we only get to happy things by going through the difficulties. Today's story has both sadness and happiness in it.

- * Can you think of a time when something bad ended up good?
- * How do you think Jesus' followers were feeling on Sunday morning, before they heard the news of what had happened?
- * What would you do if you saw an angel?
- * Have you ever experienced meeting someone but not recognising who they were straight away?
- * When did Mary realise she was with Jesus? How do you think Mary felt when she realised she was talking to the risen Jesus?
- * What surprises you most about the Easter story?
- * How would you describe the importance of the Easter story to someone?

Play together...

Whose voice?

Mary didn't recognise Jesus until he spoke and said her name.

Have someone close their eyes. Members of your family should say your name but try to disguise their voice. Can the person with their eyes closed guess who is speaking?

Pray together...

Jesus, thank you that you took my place and died on the cross. Thank you that you came back to life to show that you are more powerful even than death. Thank you that you are mighty and loving, thank you for always loving me. Today I just want to say...

Make something...



Resurrection rolls. You'll need: croissant dough (can be bought premade in supermarkets), marshmallows, cinnamon, sugar, butter.

Mix 3 tbsp sugar and 1tsp cinnamon together in a bowl. Unroll and separate the dough into triangles. Melt 2 tbsp of butter.

Take a marshmallow, dip it into the butter until all sides are coated. Roll the marshmallow in the sugar mixture. Place the coated marshmallow in the centre of a dough triangle. Fold the dough around the marshmallow and roll it until it's completely sealed.

Place on a lined baking tray. Repeat with the rest of the dough! Bake at 180oC for 15-20 minutes.

When you cut into the rolls the marshmallow will have disappeared and left an empty space!

Praise together...



[1 2 3 Jesus is alive](#)
[O praise the name](#)
[The love of the Father](#)
[See what a morning](#)

