

**He is RISEN – HALELLUJAH!**

We might each begin our worship together at home by lighting a candle...



You may like to sing the hymn:  
**Jesus Christ is risen today Alleluia**  
*[if you're reading this through email you can follow the hymn by clicking [here](#) ]*

**Prayer for Today**

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

**Acts 10 Peter visits the home of Cornelius, a devout Roman centurion, who had gathered all his relatives and close friends**

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

<sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem.

God raised him from the dead on the third day and allowed him to be seen openly, <sup>41</sup> not to everyone but to us his chosen witnesses. He actually ate and drank with us after he rose from the dead!

Jesus commanded us to preach and warn the people that God appointed him to be the judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> And not only us, but all the prophets agree in their writings that everyone who believes in him receives complete forgiveness of sins through the power of his name.'

*Prayer: Thank you Lord that you have no favourites, but your love is the same for everyone, bringing forgiveness and peace to all who will receive you. Amen*

**Psalm 118 A song of Victory**

<sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
**his steadfast love endures for ever!**

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel say,  
**'His steadfast love endures for ever!'**

...

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my might;  
**he has become my salvation.**

<sup>15</sup> There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

**'The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;**

<sup>16</sup> the right hand of the LORD is exalted;  
**the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.'**

<sup>17</sup> I shall not die, but I shall live,  
**and recount the deeds of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD has punished me severely,  
**but he did not give me over to death.**

<sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
**that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the LORD;  
**the righteous shall enter through it.**

<sup>21</sup> I thank you that you have answered me  
**and have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected  
**has become the chief cornerstone.**

<sup>23</sup> This is the LORD's doing;  
**it is marvellous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the LORD has made;  
**let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

*Prayer: Saving God, open the gates of righteousness, that your pilgrim people may enter and be built into a living temple on the cornerstone of your salvation, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

**Colossians 3 Our new life with Christ**

*[adapted from the Passion translation]*

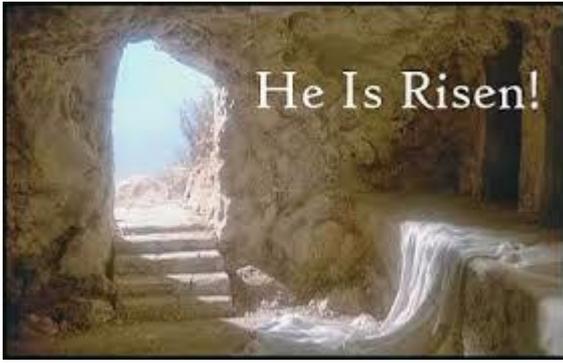
Christ's resurrection is your resurrection too. This is why we are to yearn for all that is above, for that's where Christ sits enthroned at the place of all power, honour, and authority! <sup>2</sup> Yes, feast on all the treasures of the heavenly realm and fill your thoughts with heavenly realities, and not with the distractions of the natural realm.

<sup>3</sup> For your death and your life are both hidden with the Messiah in God.

<sup>4</sup> And as Christ himself is revealed for who he really is, who you really are will also be revealed, for you are now one with him in his glory!

*Prayer: Lord help us grasp the enormity of this outstanding reality – we have died with you, we are raised with you, and we share your glory! Amen*

You may like to sing along with the Salvation Army band to the **hymn:** Up from the grave he arose!  
*[you can follow it [here](#) ]*



### Matthew 28 The Resurrection of Jesus

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 worshipped 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.'



*Prayer: O Lord to know that you are risen from the dead: what unspeakable joy! Amen*

*Dot Martin's Easter garden*

### Sermon thoughts from Bruce

Coronavirus is spreading, economies are crumbling; we're all being shaken to the core.

Quite naturally, we're anxious if not fearful.

How did all this happen? Will I stay well? How long can I survive in this lock-down?

Will life ever return to 'normal'? Where will it all end?

On Resurrection Day the earth shook, literally. This was monumental; and it changed the world order forever.

The tomb guards were so terrified they became like dead men. There's no sign their terror was tempered. Yet the frightened women were reassured, twice: "Don't be afraid – don't hold on to your fears". Theirs was not a fear like death; but an awe of God, a humbled recognition of God's glory.

We have now no need to fear, for there is hope beyond death!

Life has changed forever. There's been set loose in the world, a force stronger than all our pre-occupations, all our self-absorption; a force stronger even than death.

The angel breaks the astounding news but doesn't explain how it happened. Instead he invites the women to look inside the tomb, into the darkness, to see for themselves the emptiness and ponder the miracle.

Maybe we're being invited now to look into our own 'darkness' and ponder the meaning of events today; to discover how God is moving within this crisis.

When the women encountered Jesus, they fell down and worshipped. Time now for us to pray – to linger in God's presence and listen.

Jesus commissioned the women to go and break the astounding news to his brothers. And they went. Time now for us to go tell others how we've encountered the risen Christ, and the world of difference it makes.

And time for us to continue praying, that the whole world will listen, so when the virus is dead we'll be able to live, more fully in His joy; And so we'll have the strength to resist returning to our own ravenous lifestyle that's been over-consuming our environment for so long, and instead to embrace the new life of self-giving love, spreading joy and peace wherever we are. Lord in Your grace may this be our new 'normal'. Amen