



## **EASTER SUNDAY for worship at home**

**12 April 2020.**

**Welcome**

This is the day that starts a week

This is the day of rising

This is the day that starts new life

This is the day to sing for Joy

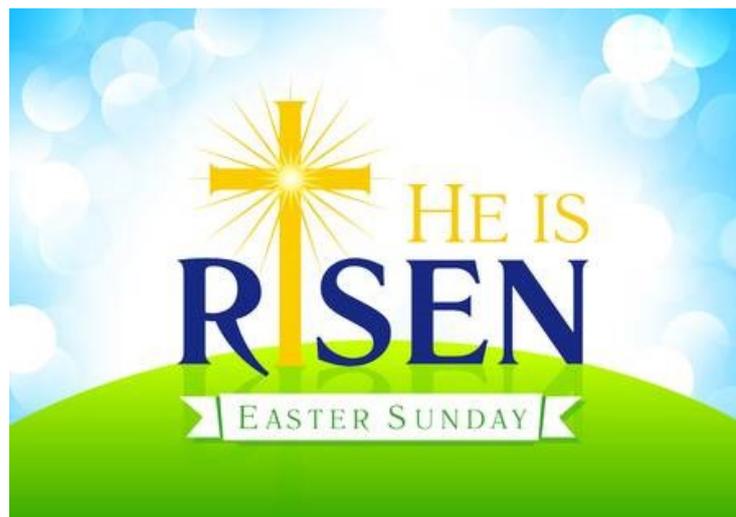
For Christ our Lord, though killed on a cross is now alive forever

Today, and all our days are now lived in light of that hope

Let me wish you a very Happy Easter Day, however you may be spending it. Even though we are not assembled in one place, we are together in Spirit and here is a wee service for us to share and for you to enjoy with you and yours.

Stay safe and God Bless You on this special day,

Easter



## Opening Prayer

*God our heavenly Father how glad you make us. What light and hope you give us.  
This is the best day of the year when we find that Jesus, who was dead, is alive again.*

*Now we know that there is nothing that can come between us and your love:  
Not even our sins or mistakes. For in Jesus you have forgiven everyone who comes to you and is sorry for  
what he or she has done.*

*Not even illness, nor danger, nor death for in Jesus you have battled all of these and you have won for us a  
great victory.*

*Thank you then that Life begins again today.  
That Jesus lives again today.*

*As we celebrate Easter may we know the influence of our Lord's life in ours.  
May you bless us with his compassion, kindness, patience.  
The love that heals all things and binds us together in Jesus Christ.*

*Amen*

## Easter Meditation 2020

***“Why do you seek the living among the dead?”***

There's a story of a business man walking to his office in Chicago when he stopped at a store window and saw a beautiful painting of the crucifixion. As he looked upon the vivid picture, he became aware there was a young boy next to him also gazing spellbound at the painting.

He said to him, “Son, do you know what the picture means?”

“Don't you know?” he answered, full of marvel at the man's ignorance. “That man on the cross is Jesus and those others are Roman soldiers and the woman who is crying is his mother. . . and they killed him.”

The man, realising he might be late for the important things he had to do, turned and walked away. Moments later he heard the sound of feet running after him, and there came the boy, breathless, rushing. “Excuse me mister, but I forgot to tell you—He rose again!”

The boy's desire to reassure is a touching reminder that sometimes a kind stranger can lift our thoughts, build our resilience, or touch our hearts in unexpected ways.

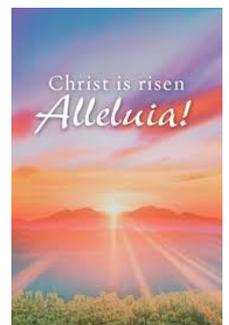
This is the day when we celebrate that He rose again!

***Christ is Risen. Halleluiah!***

I imagine us saying it all together!—and one day soon again, we will!

In these surreal days, the meaning of Resurrection comes into focus as the world adapts to cope with a virus that is robbing people of wellbeing and life.

It is too early to understand how this will affect our future life in communities, or the world—but the virus has already changed life for many.



It is uplifting to listen to people who have recovered from Covid-19. They speak of having new appreciation for life and loved ones, as if being reborn. During our decades of life, we may all face times of fear, loss of health and even the possibility of dying. After an accident, cancer treatment or a risky operation, people look differently at life than before.

Terry Waite, after seven years as a hostage to violent terrorists in Lebanon, tells how he came back with a new hunger for simple pleasures like books, music and food, and—importantly, family and faith. He has been encouraging us to make the most of this Lockdown because it is our way of saving lives, not risking them.



Whilst lockdown offers a chance to read books, and exercise, this is a moment when, (as world figures of virus affliction rise), we are reminded that death can come to anyone.

Eugene Drewermann writes that “nature is indifferent to human suffering.” Perhaps we might then feel foolish to place our faith in Jesus and His promise of Resurrection when a pandemic flu, forest fires and floods are harsh reminders that our existence as human beings is fragile.

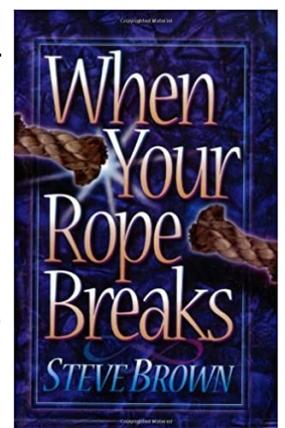
But the authors of the Bible knew this too. In times of wellbeing as well as suffering, they placed hope in God as the author of salvation. Therefore this year as much as any year, let us allow Jesus’ whole life, death and resurrection to speak to our hearts with meaning—not merely the hope of enjoying family and nature, but understanding . . . as the boy wanted the man to know, as the angel wanted Mary to know,

*“Why do you seek the living among the dead?” “He rose again!”*

This power and gift of the Easter Story is that it reinforces the fact that we are not born into death but into life. People fear death as if it is an end to life. But it is only an end to physical life in earthly bodies and not an end to our person, our spirit, our soul, our humanity as life-beings created and loved by God.

The power of the Easter story is that we need never approach one another or death itself with any fear or dread.

Steve Brown is a minister/pastor who wrote a book called, “When your Rope Breaks”. It is a book about living through crisis . . . feeling like you have done all you can do and prayed all you can pray—and you are spent. Steve tells of his brother Ron’s sudden death from a heart attack in his 40’s. His brother was a public servant and a great father, also Steve’s closest friend.



A few weeks after Ron’s death, Steve made a trip to the cemetery in the hills where Ron had been buried. It was a cold, rainy, dark winter afternoon. When he got to the cemetery, he could not find the place where Ron was buried because a stone was not yet placed on the grave and so, as he stood in the cold and the rain, he began to cry, “God this has been the worst month of my life, and now I can’t even find my brother’s grave!”

Steve Brown writes, “Jesus doesn’t visit cemeteries often, but He did that day. I knew there was a presence, the presence of the One I had almost forgotten in all my grief. Jesus came to me and said, “Why are you seeking the living among the dead?”

These words gave immediate strength and comfort to his broken heart. He wrote that he has never visited the cemetery again because he knows that the cemetery is not Ron's home. God calls us to eternal life and this is the power of Christ's resurrection promise.

Eugene Drewermann explains, "there are only two essential subjects in human life; love and death."

The women who approached Jesus' tomb on Easter morning believed that the one who had given *them* life might be snuffed out. The hope and the new life he had given each one of them, they feared, might not have meaning any more. They had seen Jesus, arrested, defeated, beaten, and subjected to human cruelty unto death. Yet within themselves they went to his grave to find him because he had become their source of life—and his presence in their lives could not be extinguished as it is still not extinguished in our lives.

The tomb was empty.

"Why do you seek the living among the dead?" the angel asked.

Eugen Drewermann, writes,



"Through the power of the resurrection, we no longer need to seek life in the abode of the dead. What can the tomb say to us? Dust and earth may encompass our bodies but our real life begins and ripens and finds its fulfilment in love."

Therefore, this is our Easter resurrection hope:

***We no longer feel the need to believe that love or life can be defeated by a virus or by the course of events. We can be certain of our value as precious human beings in the eyes of God who loves us now, and to eternity.***

That is the meaning of the Resurrection. God came and suffered and died, just to be with us through it all and to promise us that he never leaves us. He created us because we are precious to Him and he loves us deeply. And so, we need to remember that nothing, not death, nor cancer nor corona nor anything in all creation—in the world as it is or as it could be, can conquer divine love. No power in the world will ever be able to remove love from our hearts. Love is born of God, we are born in God and God's love surmounts any form of earthly disease and in God there is no such thing as death—we are born into life and we are loved unto death and well beyond the grave.

God Bless,

*Easter*

*Please check the Kirk website for Easter's Sermon  
<http://www.curriekirk.org/>*



## Prayers for Others



Lord Jesus we thank you that you rose from the dead

We thought that your way of love was a dead end leading only to a cross

We thought that your life and your sacrifice had been a waste

But now we understand that it was gloriously worthwhile

We thought your suffering was pointless but now we see God's purpose in it

We thought that death was the end.

Now we know that your life was too great to be ended by death and we can trust in your love because you have shown us that in you, life and love are eternal.

Jesus you live forever now, beyond the limitations of human life beyond the limits of time and space

We cannot understand how the tomb was empty or how you rose from the dead

We cannot understand how you appeared to Mary in the Garden

But we do understand that you changed the lives of those who met you and you change the lives of people today.

For all that we experience today of your continuing love and your life-giving purposes we give you joyful praise.

And as you taught us to do, we bring the needs of our world before your love in prayer

For our world is still so very much in need of your radical, uncompromising commandment to love.

For the light of your resurrection is still obscured by darkness and inhumanity

We pray for peace in a war torn world. Especially we pray for an end to hatred, an end to all killing and end to wars.

We lift to your resurrection light all who are excluded from fullness of life by poverty, unemployment or suffering. We pray for those who are homeless and landless. We ask for your continued involvement in the refugee crisis.

And we pray for those whose heads are bowed low in sadness because someone they love is ill, or close to death or has passed away from earthly life.

We pray for all who feel that hope has been snatched from them by sad or difficult circumstances, especially as a result of Coronavirus.

Be with your people in need of comfort and care. Be with those who have suffered loss and who know what emptiness feels like. Pour out your love upon them. Speak to their hearts in the words of faith, in the kindnesses of strangers and friends.

We pray for all who work to care for others, especially those involved in nursing and other front-line care. We pray for your church here in all its diversity and worship around the world. Bless all people of faith on this Easter Day and unite us in your Divine Love.

And as your people in our time and place, we may live and speak as people of the resurrection, showing by OUR words and deeds the sense of joy and purpose that Easter Brings.

AMEN

# CHILDREN'S SECTION

COLOUR ME IN



# Easter Word Hunt



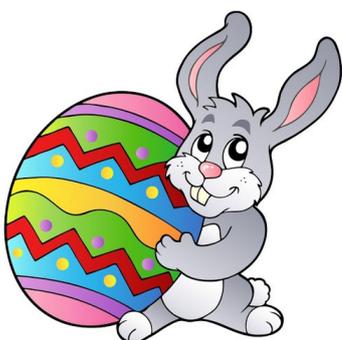
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D J G R A S S Q

BUNNY  
CHICK  
DYE  
EASTER  
EGGS  
FIND  
GRASS  
HIDE  
HUNT  
LAMB  
LILY  
NEST

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CAN YOU MAKE IT THROUGH THE MAZE?

