**Sunday 19th April 2020** WORSHIP AT HOME: **Low Sunday**

Welcome to our act of Worship for Easter 2, Low Sunday

Theme: Peace be with you!

Call to worship

Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you ... Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”*John 14.27*

A Prayer of Approach

We come to worship the risen Lord:
who brings peace into our fear:
**come, living Jesus;**
who brings hope into our despair:
**come, living Jesus;**
who brings love into our world:
**come, living Jesus. Amen**

HYMN: Come let us with our Lord arise

HP575, MP-, RS383, STF148

(Some of the hymn books widely used in the Wiltshire United Area)

Prayer of Praise

Loving God,
we praise and adore you for your great compassion,
for giving us new birth into a living hope.
The glorious truth of the resurrection astounds us;
we pray that we never lose the wonder
of what you have done for us,
of the wonderful, lasting inheritance
you provide for us.
**Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Prince of peace, we are sorry that we choose not to forgive but to hold grudges; that we doubt you and do not trust; that we choose to rely on our own resources and not on you; that we believe only when we have proof. Help us to forgive more readily, and to trust more willingly. **Amen**

HYMN This joyful Eastertide

HP213, MP- , RS248 , STF311

**GOSPELJohn 20v19-31 Jesus Appears to the Disciples** with special focus on verse 19

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to Christ our Lord. Alleluia!**

A prayer for Little People based on the Gospel reading

Jesus, you came through a locked door

*Mime trying to turn a key.*
You revealed yourself to your disciples.
*Make a bow.*
Please unlock the doors of our hearts,
*Hand on heart.*
so we, too, may clearly see you.
*Mime putting on glasses.* Amen.

REFLECTION

Every day can bring turmoil, or sadness, or distraction, or stress, every day disturbs us, that was where the disciples were. Jesus’ tomb is open and empty but the disciples’ house is closed and the doors locked tight. Their house has become their tomb, they have locked out Mary Magdalene’s words of faith, hope, and love.

Jesus is always unexpectedly entering the locked places of our lives. Regardless of the circumstances He brings peace, offers peace, embodies peace.

As I seek to live my faith at this current time, I’m finding it helpful to do some breathing exercises especially when I am not at peace!

Take a deep breath and count to five.

Slowly let your breath out as you count to 5.

Do it twice more.

Breathing slowly can help us to feel calm when everything is stressed or confused. When the writer of the psalms felt stressed, they thought about God to help them become calm. When you need to feel calm, breathe in and out slowly as you say the words, *“Jesus said, “Peace be with you.””* or *“God is with me.”*

With Thomas not only is it peace but also an offer to touch. One of the things I’m really finding difficult in this lockdown is not being able to greet people with a handshake or a hug. When we are scared or anxious, we instinctively want to hold someone’s hand. We can’t touch Jesus as Thomas did (or did he?), but Jesus invites us to come as close to him as Thomas came to him in that encounter and to know his peace. His peace does not necessarily change the circumstances of our life and world BUT the life and peace of Jesus’ resurrection enable us to meet and live through those circumstances!

Prayer of Response

Lord, it is not always easy to trust in you.
**Help me to believe.**

It is not always easy to know you are near.
**Help me to believe.**

It is not always easy to understand why things happen.
**Help me to believe.**

It is not always easy to see what you’re doing in my life, or in the world.
**Help me to believe.**

Thank you that,
even when I find it hard to believe in you,
you always believe inme.

**Lord, I believe.
Help thou my unbelief. Amen.**

HYMN Be still, for the presence of the Lord

HP -, MP50, RS-, STF20

Our Prayers

Gracious God, who hears the cries of the forgotten, and sees those who are hidden: draw close.

We live in a world where many seek peace.
We pray today for those who never have experienced the peace of Jesus.
**Lord, have mercy on each one.**

We pray for those who are worried, anxious, afraid or scared. Draw near and let them know your peace
**Lord, have mercy on each one.**

We pray for those who need your peace because
they have been hurt or let down by others or feel they are forgotten.
**Lord, have mercy on each one.**

We pray for those who long for peace because
war or natural disaster has destroyed them or those they love.
**Lord, have mercy on each one.**

We pray for those who need peace because
they are in the dark night of illness or grief.
**Lord, have mercy on each one.**

Lord, we pray for all who seek or need peace,
for whatever reason:
shine your resurrection light in their lives.
**Lord, have mercy on each one.
Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

HYMN Guide me O thou great Jehovah...

HP437, MP201, RS345, STF465

Blessing

Deep peace of the running wave to you,

Deep peace of the flowing air to you,

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,

Deep peace of the shining stars to you,

Deep peace of the gentle night to you,

Moon and stars pour out their healing light on you.

Deep peace of Christ the Son of Peace to you. **Amen.**

A personal prayer

Let me feel the touch of peace,
the touch of life,
the touch of the risen Lord,
beside me, behind me, and before me
all the days of my life. Amen.

Rev David Coppard Superintendent @ Wiltshire United Area

Bank Chaplain @ Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton

*This is service is offered to any and all, with love and prayers.*

You are not on your own,

we are all in this together!

**John 20v19-31 Jesus Appears to the Disciples**

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ 20After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ 22When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. 23If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ 27Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ 28Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ 29Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

1 Come, let us with our Lord arise,
our Lord, who made both earth and skies;
who died to save the world he made,
and rose triumphant from the dead;
he rose, the Prince of life and peace,
and stamped the day forever his.

2 This is the day the Lord has made,
that all may see his love displayed,
may feel his resurrection's power,
and rise again, to fall no more,
in perfect righteousness renewed,
and filled with all the life of God.

3 Then let us render him his own,
with solemn prayer approach his throne,
with meekness hear the gospel word,
with thanks his dying love record,
our joyful hearts and voices raise,
and fill his courts with songs of praise.

4 Honour and praise to Jesus pay

throughout his consecrated day;

be all in Jesus’ name employed,

Nor leave a single moment void;

with utmost care the time improve,

and only breathe his love and praise.

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This joyful Eastertide,

What need is there for grieving?

Cast all your cares aside

And be not unbelieving:

Chorus:

*Come, share our Easter joy*

*that death could not imprison,*

*Nor any power destroy*

*our Christ, who is arisen!*

No work for him is vain,

No faith in him mistaken,

For Easter makes it plain

His Kingdom is not Shaken:

Chorus

Then put your trust in Christ,

In waking and in sleeping,

His grace on earth sufficed;

He'll never quit his keeping:

Chorus

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Be still for the presence of the Lord
The holy one is here
Come bow before him now
With reverence and fear
In him no sin is found
We stand on holy ground
Be still for the presence of the Lord
The holy one is here

Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around
He burns with holy fire
With splendour he is crowned
How awesome is the sight
Our radiant king of light
Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around

Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place
He comes to cleanse and heal
To minister his grace
No work to hard for him
In faith receive from him
Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place.

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 1 Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

2 Open now the crystal fountain,
where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.