

Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven.....

Reflection 2: A story is told of Nikolai Bukharin, a Russian Communist leader, who took part in the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917. In 1930 he addressed a massive assembly of workers in Kiev on the subject of atheism. He spoke against Christianity for around an hour. His speech was followed by silence and he asked, "Are there any questions?" A man came forward and stood near to Bukharin. He shouted the ancient greeting known so well in the Orthodox Church: "CHRIST IS RISEN!" The crowd rose to its feet and the response came crashing forth like the sound of thunder: "HE IS RISEN, INDEED"

Closing Prayer

O LORD and heavenly Father, we your humble servants ask that you mercifully accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly asking you to grant, that by the merits and death of your Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all your whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. Amen.

The Blessing

You believe Jesus has been raised from the dead in glory.
You believe you have been raised with Christ.
May your hearts and minds be set on things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among us and remain with us always.

The Dismissal

Go in the peace of the Risen Christ.
Alleluia, alleluia.

THE UNITED BENEFICE OF WALMERSLEY ROAD

EASTER DAY Service **for Home Worship. 12 April 2020**

Alleluia, Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed, Alleluia.

HYMN: This Easter Celebration

To the tune of AURELIA ("The Church's One Foundation")

This Easter celebration is not like ones we've known.
We pray in isolation; we sing the hymns alone.
We're distant from our neighbours, from worship leaders too. No flowers grace the chancel to set a festive mood.

No gathered choirs are singing; no banners lead the way.
O God of love and promise, where's joy this Easter Day?
With sanctuaries empty, may homes become the place we ponder resurrection and celebrate your grace.

Our joy won't come from worship that's in a crowded room but from the news of women who saw the empty tomb.
Our joy comes from disciples who ran with haste to see — who heard that Christ is risen, and then, by grace, believed.

In all the grief and suffering, may we remember well:
Christ suffered crucifixion and faced the powers of hell.
Each Easter bears the promise: Christ rose that glorious day!
Now nothing in creation can keep your love away.

We thank you that at Easter, your church is blessed to be a scattered, faithful body that's doing ministry.
In homes and in the places of help and healing, too,
we live the Easter message by gladly serving you.

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Opening Prayer

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord.

Act of Contrition

I love you, Jesus, my love above all things, and I repent with my whole heart of having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again, grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

The Prayers

Spend a few moments praying for the people you know and love; the needs of the world and for an end to the current Pandemic. Pray for the work of our NHS and all those mourning the loss of loved ones. Gather up all your prayers by saying the Easter Day Collect

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 Risen Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Gospel: *Matthew 28: vs 1-10*

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 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. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 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.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

Reflection 1: part of an article by the BBC's religion editor Martin Bashir. Why Christianity is still relevant this Easter:

"Within the UK, Christianity has become less a faith by inheritance and much more one of choice. So the tradition of church attendance has declined, but those who do affiliate with a denomination tend to be committed and active participants.

This could also explain why the majority of food banks in Britain are run by churches, and why faith leaders played such an important role in the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower fire.

A religion of choice, as opposed to inheritance, tends to produce strong disciples.

Across all our platforms, we'll be reporting as Christians around the world celebrate what they believe happened to Christ during that final week of his life: that he was crucified, died and was then raised from the dead.

In many ways, it's not surprising that the secular world has been able to co-opt Christmas, centred as it is around the birth of a baby in a stable – the stuff of many a child's Nativity play. But Easter is for grown-ups.

The Christian faith speaks of Christ's death on the cross as an atoning sacrifice for all our sin and wrongdoing. And in His resurrection, the opportunity to start again."

The Creed

Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures; afterwards he appeared to his followers.

THE SACRAMENT OF BREAD & WINE

Holy Communion will be celebrated in The Vicarage at 10.00am on behalf of everyone in the United Benefice of Walmersley Road.

Alleluia, Christ our passover is sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia.

Act of Spiritual Reception

In union, heavenly Father, with your people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make communion, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though I am not now able to taste the Bread of Heaven and drink the Cup of Life I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us.