

Worship at Home

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Call to worship

We come this morning to meet with our risen Saviour, so let us start by singing STF 295.

STF 295: Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks...

Chorus:

*Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth;
he is the King of creation:

Alleluia, alleluia...

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and has risen:

Alleluia, alleluia...

We have been crucified with Christ;
now we shall live forever:

Alleluia, alleluia...

God has proclaimed the just reward:
new life for all! Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia...

Come let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Saviour:

Alleluia, alleluia...

Donald Fishel (b. 1950)

Let us pray

We confess that we are often judgemental of others;
we berate those who do not share our beliefs asking,
why do they need to have proof?

Why can't they just believe?

Forgive us, Lord, when we look down upon
unbelievers, doubters, and those who demand
proof.

Our only proof is to show our belief in you in the
ways we reach out to others, by acceptance, and
unconditional love, patience, and forbearance.

May Christ be evident in all we say and do. **Amen**



STF 293: All heaven declares...

**All heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord;
who can compare with the beauty of the Lord?**

*Forever he will be the Lamb upon the throne;
I gladly bow the knee, and worship him alone.*

**I will proclaim the glory of the risen Lord,
who once was slain to reconcile us to God.**

*Forever you will be the Lamb upon the throne;
I gladly bow the knee, and worship you alone.*

Noel Richards (b. 1955) and Tricia Richards b. 1960)

Bible reading: John 20: 19-30

Message

Have you ever watched a film or TV programme, at the end of which it leaves you wondering, "What happened next?"

Over the past weeks we have walked with Jesus through the time known as Lent, which culminated last Sunday in our celebration of Easter and Jesus' resurrection.

But what if the Bible finished on the record of Good Friday and the empty tomb? I am sure we would be all asking ourselves "Did He really conquer death, and come to life? Can the Easter story really be true?"

Over the next 40 days Jesus appeared to several people proving beyond any shadow of a doubt that He was indeed alive.

- ✦ Mary found the stone at the mouth of the grave rolled away, she told Peter and John, who also returned to the empty grave.
- ✦ Then, there were the two people who encountered Jesus as they walked from Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus, who finally recognised Jesus as He blessed the bread.
- ✦ Later, as the reading related to us, Jesus appeared to the disciples in the upper room. Unfortunately, one of the disciples, namely Thomas, was not present at this appearance, and he uttered these words,

"Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my hand into His side I will not believe".

In other words, **"I want proof!"**

This is the statement many people of the world would say today. "Prove to me there is life after death, prove to me Jesus is alive, prove to me Jesus heals, prove to me that God is a loving God with all that is going on in the world today. **Prove it and I will believe.**"

But we are told in Hebrews 11:1 that *faith (believing) is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

Jesus invites Thomas to feel the nail marks in His hands, and put his hands in His side, but have you noticed that we are not told that Thomas actually did these things, rather after meeting Jesus he just exclaimed “My Lord and my God”.

Listen again to the words Jesus spoke to Thomas: *“Because you have seen me, you have believed, blessed are those who, as yet, have not seen, and yet have believed.”*

Are you and I one of those blessed ones?

So, as we continue to walk in faith with Jesus, may I remind all of us that:

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, and the conviction of things not seen.

May our faith grow stronger in the coming days, so that all who meet us will see the change Jesus has made in our lives and can make in theirs.

God bless you all.



We say the Lord’s Prayer, “Our Father...”

Prayers of intercession

Take time to thank God for all the things you are grateful for in your life and in the world...

Take time to pray for the people, places and situations you are aware of and which need God’s presence.

Pray for them to receive what they need: help, healing, love, forgiveness.

Take time to pray for the places in the world where people are suffering because of war, famine,

violence, climate change or poverty.
Pray for peace and compassion.

Take time to pray for the church across the world, especially those places where Christians and people of other faiths are persecuted for their beliefs.
Pray for acceptance, understanding and willingness to come together.

Thank God for all who help in situations of danger, distress and disillusionment.

Take time to tell God about your needs: heartache, pain, and the help you need. Tell God about how you want to live a life more reflective of the Holy Spirit’s presence in you, so that others may see and believe.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord, we thank you that we can bring all our prayers to you in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ and through the power and presence of your Holy Spirit.
Amen



We sing our closing hymn...

StF 313: Thine be the glory

**Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o’er death has won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave- clothes where thy body lay:**

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.*

**Lo, Jesus meets us risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth, death has lost its sting:**

Thine be the glory...

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through thy
deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:
*Thine be the glory...***

*Edmund Budry (1854-1932)
trans. Richard Birch Hoyle (1875-1939)*

Closing Prayer

Thank you, Lord, that you are with us every second of the day. May we bear witness to You and share You with everyone we meet in the week ahead.

As we come to the end of this time of worship today, may we receive your blessing in the name of Jesus, our risen Lord and Saviour.

Lord, I receive your blessing through the power and presence of your Holy Spirit.

Amen