

**Christ Church, Ipswich**  
**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024**  
**Family Worship for the Third Sunday of Easter**  
*Minister: The Revd Neil Coulson*  
*Organist: Mr Stephen Hogger*

Hello, I hope you are well. Let us worship God together:

**Call to worship**

Jesus says, 'Come to me,  
 all you who are weary and burdened  
 and I will give you rest.'  
 In worship, let us come to the one who offers peace and rest.

**A gathering prayer**

Lord God, whose arms are always open to us,  
 we come before you today  
 with hearts and minds open to receive from you.  
 Lead us to understand who you are and what you have done,  
 and what you require of us as witnesses.  
 In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**R&S 285            O for a thousand tongues to sing**

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
 my great Redeemer's praise,  
 the glories of my God and King,  
 the triumphs of his grace.

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,  
 that bids our sorrows cease;  
 'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
 'tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,  
 he sets the prisoner free;  
 his blood can make the foulest clean,  
 his blood availed for me.

He speaks, and listening to his voice  
 new life the dead receive;  
 the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,  
 the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,  
 your loosened tongues employ;  
 ye blind, behold your Saviour come;  
 and leap, ye lame, for joy!

My gracious Master and my God,  
 assist me to proclaim,  
 to spread through all the earth abroad  
 the honours of thy name.

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

### **A prayer of adoration**

Lord, who understands our every need,  
 we adore you for stilling our turmoil,  
 for being the calm in the storm,  
 our anchor in the deep,  
 and the safe port awaiting us always. **Amen.**

### **A prayer of confession**

God, we confess that when distress comes knocking at our door,  
 all that we have learned and should know  
 often goes flying out of the window.  
 Our minds in disarray,  
 we fail to turn to trusted sources of help.  
 Forgive us for forgetting how to seek you.  
 We forget your sustaining Word in Scripture,  
 your presence when we turn to you in prayer,  
 the calm that is to be found when we seek you in community.  
 We are sorry for turning in on ourselves,  
 our minds going round in circles.  
 Come, risen Lord, break the cycle of our despair. **Amen.**

### **Assurance of forgiveness**

When our understanding is dark, clouded by dismay,  
 fearful and lacking in faith,  
 we know that you understand, gracious and loving Lord.  
 Shine your light on us  
 and banish the dark thoughts that overwhelm us;  
 forgive us the deeds committed  
 while fearful and bewildered,  
 and lead us forward in the light of your love. **Amen.**

### **A prayer of praise**

Lord, you have always been our host.  
 When you first came into the world we call ours,  
 shepherds and kings were your guests.  
 When you accepted hospitality in the homes of others,  
 you turned the tables and became the host,  
 feeding hearts and souls through your teaching.  
 When you came to the disciples, newly risen,  
 you took charge and saw to their needs of mind and body.  
 We praise you, Jesus, ground of our being,  
 ground of our believing,  
 for standing among us in your risen power,  
 host to the world that is yours – not ours. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

## Family Time

### R&S 522 From heaven you came, helpless babe,

1 From heaven you came, helpless babe,  
entered our world, your glory veiled;  
not to be served, but to serve,  
and give your life that we might live

*This is our God, the Servant King,  
he calls us now to follow him,  
to bring our lives as a daily offering  
of worship to the Servant King.*

2 There in the garden of tears,  
my heavy load he chose to bear;  
his heart with sorrow was torn,  
'Yet not my will but yours', he said.

3 Come see his hands and his feet,  
the scars that speak of sacrifice,  
hands that flung stars into space  
to cruel nails surrendered.

4 So let us learn how to serve,  
and in our lives enthrone him;  
each other's needs to prefer,  
for it is Christ we're serving.

Graham Kendrick (1950- )  
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*The children go to Junior Church with our love and blessing*

### Old Testament Reading Psalm 4

*Confident Plea for Deliverance from Enemies  
To the leader: with stringed instruments. A Psalm of David.*

- <sup>1</sup> Answer me when I call, O God of my right!  
You gave me room when I was in distress.  
Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.
- <sup>2</sup> How long, you people, shall my honour suffer shame?  
How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies? *Selah*
- <sup>3</sup> But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself;  
the Lord hears when I call to him.
- <sup>4</sup> When you are disturbed, do not sin;  
ponder it on your beds, and be silent. *Selah*
- <sup>5</sup> Offer right sacrifices,  
and put your trust in the Lord.
- <sup>6</sup> There are many who say, 'O that we might see some good!  
Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!'
- <sup>7</sup> You have put gladness in my heart  
more than when their grain and wine abound.
- <sup>8</sup> I will both lie down and sleep in peace;  
for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.

### Gospel Reading Luke 24:36b-49

*Jesus Appears to His Disciples*

<sup>36b</sup> Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' <sup>37</sup> They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup> He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' <sup>40</sup> And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup> While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things.’ <sup>49</sup>And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

**R&S 234            Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord**

*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.

Spread the good news o’er all the earth,  
Jesus has died and has risen.

We have been crucified with Christ,  
now we shall live forever.

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

Donald Fishel. (1950-)  
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**Reflection based on today’s readings**

***A moment for personal reflection***

**BPW 585            We have a gospel to proclaim**

1 We have a gospel to proclaim,  
good news for men in all the earth;  
the gospel of a saviour’s name:  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

2 Tell of His birth at Bethlehem,  
not in a royal house or hall  
but in a stable dark and dim:  
the Word made flesh, a light for all.

3 Tell of his death at Calvary,  
hated by those he came to save;  
in lonely suffering on the cross  
for all he loved, his life he gave.

4 Tell of that glorious Easter morn:  
empty the tomb, for he was free;  
He broke the power of death and hell  
that we might share his victory.

5 Tell of His reign at God’s right hand,  
by all creation glorified;  
He sends his Spirit on his Church  
to live for him, the Lamb who died.

6 Now we rejoice to name him king:  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth;  
This gospel-message we proclaim:  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Edward Joseph Burns (1938 - )

## **Our prayers of intercession**

Hear us when we call, O God of our right,  
as we bring you our prayers and our pain,  
even in these days of Easter joy.

Holy and Righteous One, God of our forebears,  
we remember the places of war and conflict in our world,  
we pray for the people of Israel longing for security and their place in the sun,  
and for the people of Gaza, bombed, starved, and abused,  
longing for a ceasefire, hoping the world will not turn its back,  
as they yearn for security and nationhood in their land.

*pause*

Hear us when we call, O God of our right  
**as we bring you our prayers and our pain.**

Holy and Righteous One, Author of life,  
we pray for the people of Russia, lied to and manipulated,  
where faith is subverted into narrow nationalism,  
and the rich continue to wield pernicious power;  
we pray too for the people of Ukraine, longing for peace and security,  
both applauded and ignored by the world,  
whose security rests now on the outcome of a faraway election in America.

*pause*

Hear us when we call, O God of our right  
**as we bring you our prayers and our pain.**

Holy and Righteous One, bringer of Peace,  
we remember our own nations before you;  
bring peace to those working with children questioning their gender,  
that holistic care, better research, and a calmer public debate will ensue;  
bring peace to those threatened with deportation to Rwanda,  
as, again, our government seeks to evade its legal responsibilities,  
that the rule of law and compassionate loving action  
will become hallmarks of our nations;  
bring peace to carers who have saved the state millions  
yet are now penalised for mistaken benefit claims  
that their work will be truly recognised and rewarded;  
and bring peace to our nations as we move into elections,  
with voices seeking to divide and play to base instincts in order to win votes,  
that our values of love and inclusion will influence the debates to come.

*pause*

Hear us when we call, O God of our right  
**as we bring you our prayers and our pain.**

Holy and Righteous One, Eternal Trinity of love,  
Hear us now as we bring to you, in the silence of our hearts,  
those we love and worry about.

*Longer pause*

Hear us when we call, O God of our right  
**as we bring you our prayers and our pain.**

Accept our prayers, O Holy and Righteous One,  
 that your peace will inspire us to embody  
 the coming Kingdom that Jesus proclaimed. **Amen.**

### **R&S 573 God is working his purpose out**

1 God is working his purpose out,  
 as year succeeds to year;  
 God is working his purpose out,  
 and the time is drawing near;  
 nearer and nearer draws the time,  
 the time that shall surely be,  
 when the earth shall be filled  
 with the glory of God  
 as the waters cover the sea.

2 From utmost east to utmost west,  
 where human feet have trod,  
 by the voice of many messengers  
 goes forth the voice of God:  
 'Give ear to me, you continents,  
 you islands give ear to me,  
 that the earth may be filled  
 with the glory of God  
 as the waters cover the sea'.

3 What can we do to work God's work,  
 to prosper and increase  
 love and justice throughout the world,  
 the reign of the Prince of Peace?  
 What can we do to hasten the time,

the time that shall surely be,  
 when the earth shall be filled  
 with the glory of God  
 as the waters cover the sea?

4 Let us go out in the strength of God,  
 with the banner of Christ unfurled,  
 that the light of the glorious gospel of truth  
 may shine throughout the world:  
 sin and sorrow let us fight  
 to set their captives free,  
 that the earth may be filled  
 with the glory of God  
 as the waters cover the sea.

5 All that we do can have no worth  
 unless God blesses the deed;  
 vainly we hope for the harvest-tide  
 till God awakens the seed;  
 yet nearer and nearer draws the time,  
 the time that shall surely be,  
 when the earth shall be filled  
 with the glory of God  
 as the waters cover the sea.

Arthur C. Ainger. (1841-1919)

### **The Blessing**

May the blessing of God Almighty  
 Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,  
 be upon you, and those whom you love,  
 this day and always. Amen.

### **The Grace**

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 the love of God,  
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
 be with us all evermore. Amen.**

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