

Christ Church, Ipswich

Sunday 5th April 2026

Easter Sunday All-age Worship

Happy Easter! I hope you are well. It is wonderful to be able to share with you on this most special of days within the Christian year and as we worship together today, I pray that you will know the renewing, hope-filled presence of God as we celebrate and reflect on the resurrection of Jesus.

Let us join together in praising God this Easter Sunday:

Call to worship

Christ is risen!

Alleluia!

The Lord is risen!

He is risen indeed!

The Lord Jesus Christ is risen indeed!

And so we worship together this day
remembering once more the Good News of Easter,
rejoicing once more in the victory of Jesus
over sin and evil, darkness and death,
celebrating once more the triumphant message of the Resurrection:

New hope! New joy! New life!

The Lord is risen!

He is risen indeed!

A gathering prayer

Risen Lord,
in the stillness and wonder of this moment,
we hardly dare to believe that you are indeed alive!
Yet our hearts are filling with faith, hope and love,
and our souls are beginning to believe!
Wonderful Lord, we fall on our knees with thanksgiving. **Amen.**

A prayer of approach

God of resurrection, ever renewing, ever reviving,
we adore you for your life-giving presence.
Son of Man, newly risen, sorrow made joy,
we adore you for your sacrificial living and dying.
Holy Spirit, breezing among us this Easter morn,
we adore you for breathing new life into us.
Amen.

R&S 250 The strife is o'er, the battle done

1 The strife is o'er, the battle done;
 now is the Victor's triumph won;
 O let the song of praise be sung:
Alleluia!

2 Death's mightiest powers have done their
 worst,
 but Christ their legions has dispersed;
 let shouts of praise and joy outburst:
Alleluia!

3 On the third day he rose again
 glorious in majesty to reign;
 O let us swell the joyful strain:
Alleluia!

4 He broke the ancient chains of hell;
 the bars from heaven's high portals fell;
 let hymns of praise his triumph tell:
Alleluia!

5 Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee,
 from death's dread sting thy servants free,
 that we may live, and sing to thee:
Alleluia!

Latin, 17th cent.
 tr. Francis Pott (1832-1909) altd.*

A prayer of adoration

Loving God,
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 We praise you this morning for all that you are, and all that you have done.
 We thank you for coming to us in Jesus Christ,
 and for Jesus's willingness to journey to the Cross for us.
 We cannot fully comprehend your suffering or sacrifice,
 but we give thanks for amazing grace, and we celebrate his glorious resurrection.
 Through Jesus, we can be in no doubt of your love for us.
 Through Jesus, we receive your forgiveness and mercy.
 Through Jesus, there is victory over sin and death.
 Through Jesus, we are adopted into your family.
 Through Jesus, we can be filled with your transforming Spirit.
 Through Jesus, there is hope. Amen.

A prayer of confession

Lord Jesus, we ask your forgiveness
 for when we have failed to perceive the power in your story.
 Even the Easter story has become so familiar to us
 that we fail to feel the immense impact of it.
 The stone rolled away! The ground itself shaking beneath us!
 A crucified man defeating death itself!
 Today, Lord, we seek to follow in the footsteps
 of the women who witnessed your resurrection;
 to hear and see and feel as they did,
 so that we can truly proclaim your
 groundbreaking gospel. **Amen.**

Assurance of forgiveness

Risen Christ, wipe away our fears and our tears. Cleanse us, renew us, refresh us, release us from all that we
 have confessed and let us walk with you our resurrection God, knowing that our sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

A prayer of praise

Lord God, we thank you for today's experience of your amazing resurrection. We want to take our response
 into our everyday. We have to get out there, and live. In the fear, in the joy, in the rollercoaster moments, as
 well as when the path runs smoothly – wherever you call us, whatever you ask us to do, we trust you, Lord.
 You are always with us – thanks be to God. **Amen.**

Family Time

Easter Egg Hunt in the sanctuary for our children

All-age Prayer

Heavenly Father,
 thank you for the fun and happiness of Easter.
 Thank you for food and treats.
 Thank you for laughter and friendship.
 Thank you for eggs and excitement.
 Thank, above all, that Jesus is alive,
 and that we can celebrate that today! Amen.

BPW 256 Low in the grave he lay

1 Low in the grave he lay,
 Jesus, my Saviour;
 waiting the coming day,
 Jesus, my Lord.

*Up from the grave he arose,
 with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
 he arose a victor from the dark domain,
 and he lives for ever with his saints to reign:
 He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

2 Vainly they watch his bed,
 Jesus, my Saviour;
 vainly they seal the dead,
 Jesus, my Lord.

3 Death cannot keep his prey,
 Jesus, my Saviour,
 he tore the bars away,
 Jesus, my Lord.

Robert Lowry (1826–99)

Easter Day Bible Reading:

Matthew 28:1-10

NT page 31

The Resurrection of Jesus

28 After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And 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. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then 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.' ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

BPW 251 I know that my Redeemer lives!

1 I know that my Redeemer lives!
 What joy the blest assurance gives!
 He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
 He lives, my everlasting Head!

2 He lives, to bless me with his love;
 He lives, to plead for me above;
 He lives, my hungry soul to feed;
 He lives, to help in time of need.

3 He lives, and grants me daily breath;
 He lives, and I shall conquer death;
 He lives, my mansion to prepare;
 He lives, to lead me safely there.

4 He lives, all glory to his name;
 He lives, my Saviour, still the same;
 What joy the blest assurance gives!
 I know that my Redeemer lives!

Samuel Medley (1738-99)

Short Easter reflection

A moment for reflection as Stephen plays some music

R&S 260 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing

1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The Cross stands empty to the sky:
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

3 Not throned afar, remotely high,
untouched, unmoved by human pains,
but daily, in the midst of life,
our Saviour in the Godhead reigns.

4 In every insult, rift and war
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives where even hope has died.

5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise!

Brian Wren (1936-)
© Oxford University Press

Our prayers of intercession

Lord God our Father, you sent your Son for us. This Easter we remember the story that shook the world, the earthquake, the stone rolling away from the grave, and the joy of a world shaken by the defeat of death and your Son coming back to life. We remember the hope that this amazing news gives us, and the joy of knowing we can know and love you more through your Son.

So we pray that you would shake us. We pray that you would make us into people with the energy and hope of those first followers of Jesus, seeing all chances to share your message of Good News with others. Shake us so that we would desire to read your word, pray and listen to you, and become more like the disciples you call us to be. Wake us from being 'dead' to the joy of Jesus saving us. Shake us, Lord.

Shake your world,

Shake your world with peace, hope and love.

Lord God our Father, you sent your Son to bring peace. This Easter we think of the world that Jesus lived in, with people fighting for power and claiming land that was not theirs. We think of those who realised that Jesus came to bring peace and offer a new way to live with others, and those who only saw chances to be selfish and cruel.

So we pray that you would shake our world. We pray for all leaders across the world who are supporting and encouraging conflict and war. We pray that you would shake their consciences and open their eyes to the pain and turmoil that they are causing. Shake all those who can speak to work even harder to save lives and stop the destruction that we see by encouraging talks, ceasefires, and peace. We continue to pray for Ukraine, all of the Middle East, Sudan, and so many other areas of war. Shake our world, Lord.

Shake your world,

Shake your world with peace, hope and love.

Lord God our Father, you sent your Son to speak truth. This Easter we think of those days before his death on the cross when Jesus spoke truth to the powers in the temple, truth to the Roman and Jewish leaders, and truth to all those who would listen. We remember that even through Jesus' death, people such as the Roman officer, realised the truth of Jesus, true Son of God.

So we pray that you would shake all people. We pray that people would not be easily led into believing lies and rumours about others, or take whatever they read on the internet as being true. We pray that you would shake celebrities, leaders and all those with influence to consider carefully the truth of what they say, and avoid things that will stir up anger and unrest based on lies. We pray for those who have allegations made against them, and all victims of harm and abuse. Shake all people into being people who speak and live by the truth. Shake all people, Lord.

Shake your world,

Shake your world with peace, hope and love.

Lord God our Father, you sent your Son to show compassion. This Easter we think of the compassion Jesus showed to those who were crucified alongside him, and those close to him who he spoke to even when dying. We think of all of his words of compassion and hope, his example of caring and healing, and his parables that show his care for people.

So shake all your followers. We pray that we who claim to carry the name of your Son Jesus would also carry his behaviours with us. We pray that we would actively help the homeless, feed the hungry, support the weak, walk alongside those sad and ill, speak up for the forgotten or undervalued, and live lives that shout the Good News of Jesus in all we do. We remember all those facing higher bills and struggling to cope with price rises in fuel and food. Shake Christians out of our comfort and self-satisfaction to be children and adults who live out Jesus' compassion every day. Shake your people, Lord.

Shake your world,

Shake your world with peace, hope and love. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

R&S 247 Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son

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

2 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 hath lost its sting:

3 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:

Edmund Budry (1854-1932) Tr. R. Birch Hoyle (1875-1939)

A sending out prayer

Thank you, Lord,

for this wonderful, hopeful day.

Thank you that you are alive and with us
in all the celebrations and challenges of life.

Go with us now to enjoy our celebrations
and face any challenges ahead.

May we share your good news and blessing
with all those we meet this week. **Amen.**

The Blessing

May the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be upon us and all those we 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.**