

St Nicholas Church, Sighthill

Second Sunday of Easter

11th April 2021

peace and joy. This our Easter prayer and praise. We offer to God our Father in the words that Christ Himself has given us – **The Lord' Prayer**

Our Father,

VIDEOS BEFORE THE SERVICE: Beautiful Saviour
Easter Hymn by Claire Ryann
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r54sTcBCPkQ>

DID JESUS REALLY RISE FROM THE DEAD?
<https://youtu.be/Nwv5itm3l8s>

Illustration by: J. ALAN VOKEY/JAVOK.COM

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed are You, Creator God,
Your light dispels the darkness of sin and death.
Christ is risen from the dead and all creation
rejoices in the victory of redeeming love.

The sorrows and wounds of the cross have been
consumed by the glory of the empty tomb.

Out of the darkness of sin You have called us into
resurrection light. Through the deep waters of
death You have brought us to eternal life.

May Christ the First and Last fill our hearts with
praise and bring us to the joy of the new creation.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God forever.

OPENING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Friends, we meet in our Father's presence to
celebrate the glory of our Easter faith. We hear
again the good news of the resurrection of Christ
from the dead. We offer our Easter thanksgiving to
God in our prayers and songs of praise.

Rejoicing with the first apostles and witnesses of
the Resurrection, we pray for the world over which
Christ reigns, for the church on which Christ
breathes the Holy Spirit and for the unity and
mission of all who profess One Lord, One Faith and
One Baptism. We pray for those to whom the risen
Christ brings His peace in their need or sickness, in
their anxiety or loneliness, in their darkness or their
grief. We remember all those we love, all who have
asked for our prayers for healing, strength, love,

BIBLE READING: JOHN 20:19-31

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5TQTfHCQfM>

ALL AGE TALK

<https://youtu.be/vDMMsCxMbiU>

REFLECTION2/ PRAYERS

Jesus is risen, Hallelujah! Worship and praise Him,
alleluia! Now our redeemer bursts from the grave; lost
to the tomb, Christ rises to save. Come, let us worship
Him, endlessly sing; Christ is alive and death loses its
sting. Sins are forgiven, Hallelujah!

Jesus is risen, alleluia! This is beyond belief! People
don't rise from the dead, especially after so much
suffering and torture. Despite hearing Jesus Himself
tell them He would die and rise from the dead three
days later, the disciples, both men and women, still
could not believe it was possible.

Holy One, enable us to navigate this uncharted path
of faith. I believe - help my unbelief. Buried for three
days, destined for death, now He returns to breathe
with our breath. Blest are the ears alert to His voice,
blest are the hearts which for Him rejoice.

This year, so many of us have had to bury loved ones,
often from a distance and often unable to be with
them as they died. The pandemic continues to
decimate families and communities across the globe:

- in Brazil where over 3,000 deaths each day from Covid-19 continue to mount;
- in India where vaccines produced for overseas are being retained for use at home;
- in the U.S. where infection rates are soaring;

- in Europe where rates are spiking again leading to lockdowns;
- in many countries in the developing world where hospitals are overrun with Covid-19 patients.

This pattern repeats across the globe, despite the progress of vaccination programs in some, mostly western countries.

Holy One, be close and comfort those who ache with grief and loss, and enable them to accept the hope of knowing that through the resurrection of Jesus, new life beyond our limited physical life is open to us all. Lord, hear us, and answer our prayers.

'Don't be afraid!' the angel had said, 'Why seek the living here with the dead? Look, where He lay, His body is gone, risen and vibrant, warm with the sun.'

or to be a listening ear. Enable us to be these, Your hands and ears for Your beloved people. Holy One, in our emptiness, fill us with Your love and spirit to meet the needs of those we meet, both near and far.

*Go and tell others, Christ is alive.
Love is eternal, faith and hope thrive. What God intended; Jesus fulfilled; what God conceives can never be killed.*

The passion-filled life, death and resurrection of Jesus, the whole Holy Week and Eastertide, is about re-discovering that Love is the greatest energy in our lives, world and creation. So many of us in this last year have rediscovered this in a new way for ourselves. Not touching, meeting, seeing, just sharing and caring face-to-face has taken a terrible toll on us all one way or another.

But we give thanks for the love, faith and compassion of so many who have gone out of their way to do acts of kindness for others – often unknown to them.

As Woody, an 8-year-old autistic English boy said, **"I don't want life to go back to normal. I want it to go back to better."** His sayings are now being made into screen prints by his father to raise funds for an autistic children's charity.

Holy One, enable us to dare to trust and to live in tune with You, as Jesus showed us. It's all about Love, and You ARE Love.

Let heaven echo, let the earth sing: Jesus is saviour of everything. All those who trust Him,

Christ will receive; therefore rejoice, obey and believe!
Amen

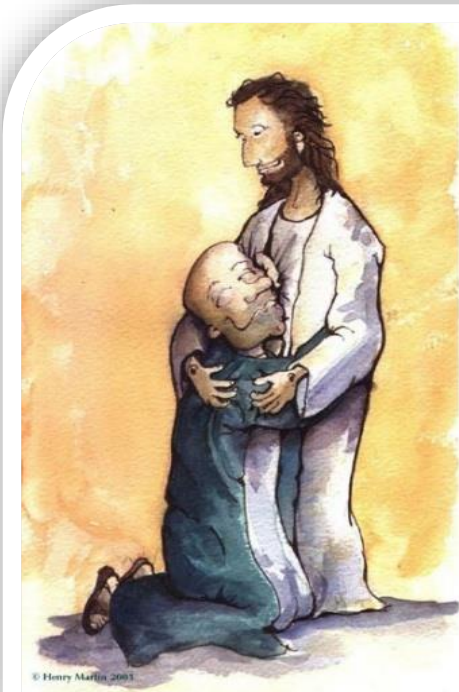
<http://worldinprayer.org/>

CLOSING SONG: SEE WHAT A MORNING
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJrUEVKGXTQ>

BENEDICTION AND AMEN:

Resurrection shakes the sleeping into life, brings life from death, gives vision to the visionless.

Resurrection calls us to go and do God's work in the world, to bring light to the darkness, to bring hope to the hopeless, to be the voice of the voiceless.



Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

When we lose someone we love, wherever we are, whoever we are, of whatever culture or ethnicity, with faith or faithless – we want to do everything we can to do everything decently and lovingly to lay them to rest. Yet when those closest to Jesus found His body had disappeared, the beings of light where Jesus's body had laid asked them, "Why seek the living among the dead?"

In so many tragedies – war, natural disaster, air crashes, or disappearance whether through political turbulence or unexplained circumstances – the not-knowing is like a continually draining wound. Regardless of how deep our faith is, in our humanity we often need "someone with skin on" to comfort us

My Lord and my God!