

A Short Act of Worship for Sunday 2 May

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

*Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigour of the wind's rush, like the new flame's eager might: Come, Holy Spirit, come.*

*To the members of Christ's body, to the branches of the Vine,
to the Church in faith assembled, to her midst as gift and sign: Come, Holy Spirit, come.*

*With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the power to love and witness, with the peace beyond compare: Come, Holy Spirit, come.*

Like Mary at the empty tomb, we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence. Lord, have mercy.
Like the disciples behind locked doors, we are afraid to be seen as your followers. Christ, have mercy.
Like Thomas in the upper room, we are slow to believe. Lord, have mercy.

A pause for reflection ...

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

God's Word:

Jesus said, 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

(John 15: 1-8)

*In heavenly love abiding, no change my heart shall fear;
and safe is such confiding, for nothing changes here:
the storm may roar around me, my heart may low be laid;
but God is round about me, and can I be afraid?*

*Wherever he may guide me, no want shall turn me back;
my shepherd is beside me, and nothing can I lack:
his wisdom ever waketh, his sight is never dim,
he knows the way he taketh, and I will walk with him.*

*Green pastures are before me, which yet I have not seen;
bright skies will soon be o'er me, where darkest clouds have been;
my hope I cannot measure, my path to life is free;
my saviour has my treasure, and he will walk with me.*

Our prayers:

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

Jesus, light of the world, bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations ...

Jesus, bread of life, give food to the hungry ...
and nourish us all with your word.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life, be with us and all who follow you in the way ...
Deepen our appreciation of your truth and fill us with your life.

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep, recover the straggler, bind up the injured,
strengthen the sick and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life, we give you thanks
for all who have lived and believed in you ... Raise us with them to eternal life.
Jesus, Lord of life, in your mercy, hear us, accept our prayers, and be with us always. Amen.

A pause for silence prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name ...

(or)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name ...

*We praise you, Lord, for Jesus Christ, who died and rose again,
Who lives to break the power of sin and over death to reign.*

*We praise you that we all may share the freedom Christ can give,
We've died to sin with Christ, and now with Christ are raised to live.*

*We praise you, Lord, that we, your folk, are grafted to the vine,
Are made a member of your house and bear the cross as sign.*

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,
fill us with his new life; and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life.
Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.