

## A Short Act of Worship for Sunday 9 May

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

*A new commandment I give unto you: that you love one another as I have loved you,  
that you love one another as I have loved you.*

*By this shall the world shall know you are my disciples if you have love one to another.*

*By this shall the world shall know you are my disciples if you have love one to another.*

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, 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

*(John 15: 9-17)*

*Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you,*

*pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.*

*We are pilgrims on a journey, and companions on the road;*

*we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;*

*I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you;*

*I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.*

*When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,*

*born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.*

*Brother, sister let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;*

*pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.*

*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 ...

*Let love be real, in giving and receiving, without the need to manage and to own;  
a haven free from posing and pretending, where every weakness may be safely known.  
Give me your hand, along the desert pathway, give me your love wherever we may go:  
As God loves us, so let us love each other, with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.*

*Let love be real, not grasping or confining, that strange embrace that holds yet sets us free;  
that helps us face the risk of truly living, and makes us brave to be what we might be.  
Give me your strength when all my words are weakness, give me your love in spite of all you know.  
As God loves us, so let us love each other, with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.*

*Let love be real, with no manipulation, no secret wish to harness or control;  
let us accept each other's incompleteness, and share the joy of learning to be whole.  
Give me your hope through dreams and disappointments, give me your trust when all my failings show.  
As God loves us, so let us love each other, with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.*

Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven:  
help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father's side,  
where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and for ever. 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.