

**Easter Sunday Service**

 **Sunday 12th April 2020**

**Easter Collect**

 God of Glory

by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death:

fill us with faith and hope;

for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Easter Greeting**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

 **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

**Bible reading**

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, and going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightening, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.” So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” Matthew 28 : 1 - 10

**Reflection**

All seemed lost, nothing was going the way it should have done. Jesus should have been placed on the throne in Jerusalem by now but instead he was dead and buried. But was he? That Sunday morning was a game changer. No body in the grave, an Angel with a message, and the truth finally revealed. This Jesus is the Risen Christ, the Saviour, not just of a nation for a few years, but of the world for eternity. And now he calls his followers to proclaim the Good News that the penalty of sin has been paid and, for those who believe in Him, resurrection life for ever is theirs. Where do we stand today in a world where there seems to be little hope for the future? Can we see the bigger picture? This Easter hear the message and live confidently sharing that Jesus Christ is our Risen Lord forever.

**Final prayer**

God of life, who for us gave your only Son to die on the Cross,

 and by his glorious resurrection has delivered us from the power of death:

 grant us so to die daily to sin,

that we may evermore live in the joy of his risen life;

 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Blessing**

And now,

may God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory,

give us joy and peace this Easter time.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us now and evermore. Amen.

**Final words**

 Live in the peace of Christ our risen Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.

 **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**