

On this Easter Day, let us pray for joy for the world, joy triumphant over despair, frustration, deprivation, death.  
The Lord hears our prayer:  
**Thanks be to God.**

On this Easter Day, let us pray for salvation for the world, salvation triumphant over sin, pollution, disease, death.  
The Lord hears our prayer:  
**Thanks be to God.**

In the name of Jesus our risen Lord and Saviour, **Amen**

Hymn StF313 H&P212  
**Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son**

Blessing

May the light of the Risen Christ dispel our shadows;  
May the love of the Risen Christ renew and enable us;  
May the joy of the Risen Christ shine through us,  
that we may walk with him and bring others to him,  
and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore.

**Amen**

Bible quotes are from NRSVA; online quotes are at [bible.oresmus.org](http://bible.oresmus.org)

Prayers are from various sources including MWB.

Other prayers and all reflections written by Rev Tony Buglass, supernumerary minister in the Tynedale Circuit.

**Darlington Methodist District  
Worship at Home  
Easter Sunday 2021**

Gathering in worship

As the women walked to the tomb in sorrow and found joy, so may we come into the presence of the Living Jesus.

Prayer for Sunday

Wonderful God, we have no words that can express your power and our awe. You have raised your son from the dead! He is risen, and all creation sings your victory and glory! He is risen, and we are free from the power of sin and death. We have no words big enough to express your power and our awe, but we have hearts full of amazement and adoration, and we offer them to you.

We are sorry for the times we have lived as if Jesus had stayed in the tomb. Forgive us for the times we have allowed despair to take possession of us; for the times we have given in to the power of sin; for the times we have failed to trust you.

Help us to praise you in the living of resurrection life - may the victory we celebrate today so fill our lives that we may be faithful to you in all things; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, **Amen**.

**Our Father...**

Hymn StF297 H&P190  
**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing**

Reading: [Mark16:1-8](#)

The ending of Mark's Gospel is a bit of a puzzle. The earliest and best manuscripts end at v.8 - the women find the tomb empty, a man dressed in white tells them Jesus is risen, and they leave in fear and trembling, and say nothing because they were afraid. And that, impossibly, is that as far as Mark is concerned. It almost looks as if Mark doesn't believe in the resurrection!

More likely, there was more, but those pages of the original Gospel were lost - the actual text is very abrupt, it does look as if the last page was torn off at some point and lost.

Either way, there are no stories of resurrection appearances like those in the other Gospels. So some decided to put that right, and added their own endings, borrowing from the other Gospels:

- the appearance to Mary Magdalene, including the disbelief of the disciples, is in the other Gospels;
- the appearance to two who were walking in the country seems to be taken from Luke's Emmaus road story;
- the command to go and preach everywhere seems to come from Matthew's Great Commission in Mt.28.

However, looking back through the Gospel, it is obvious that Mark does believe in the resurrection: he has Jesus predict it several times, and even gives his readers a 'trailer', anticipating what they would see when it happened:

Reading: [Mark.9:2-10](#)

Hymn StF134 H&P457

**Christ, whose glory fills the skies**

The Transfiguration is in all three Synoptic Gospels. It gives a glimpse of 'the real Jesus', the Jesus whom surely death could not contain. In Mark's version, Jesus tells them not to say anything until he is raised from the dead, which has the disciples pondering what that could mean. They will find out! The glory they have glimpsed will be seen not as a temporary thing which is then 'camouflaged' again in the ordinary, but will be seen in the reality of the Risen Christ: the death he must endure will be real, not pretend, as it is only by entering fully into whole reality and depth of human experience that he will be able to embrace and save humanity, but if death is a reality, so is the new life which will shine out and bring new life and light to the whole human

race. In the meantime, that glory has to be put away, and they trek together back down the hill to the ordinary world and the work which has yet to be done.

That's the point: most of the time we don't see the risen Christ in special signs and wonders. We see him in the ordinary: the evidence of God at work in and through his people is the special nature of their ordinary life and discipleship. If people visit a church, and find friendship and welcome, there is God. If people come to worship, and find in the singing and the devotion of those around them something which uplifts them and enables them to worship, there is God. If ordinary acts of kindness and generosity kindle a warmth of light in someone's life, if being a good neighbour helps someone to be cared for and know they are part of the community, there is God.

The resurrection was a real event. It really did happen, there is enough testimony in the Gospels to support the claim. But the sudden silence at the end of Mark doesn't deny it, it simply puts us where those women were at that moment: we can't prove it, most of the time we don't see it, but we live in the conviction that it is true.

Intercessions

On this Easter Day, let us pray for life for the world, life triumphant over persecution, illness, suffering, death.

The Lord hears our prayer:

**Thanks be to God.**

On this Easter Day, let us pray for love for the world, love triumphant over indifference, hatred, death.

The Lord hears our prayer:

**Thanks be to God.**

On this Easter Day, let us pray for peace for the world, peace triumphant over fear, warfare, inner conflict, death.

The Lord hears our prayer:

**Thanks be to God.**