

## Blairdaff and Chapel of Garioch Parish Church

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020 EASTER DAY

To be able to access the links, go to the bottom of this page and left click on the date. This will download the pdf in a new window, then simply click on the links as indicated.

Sadly, we cannot meet together today. However, we are able to worship together by using the devotions below.

Welcome



### 1 Peter 1:3

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has give us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection from Jesus Christ from the dead."*

Song: [Christ the Lord is risen today](#) [Click on the link](#)

## Prayer

Praise be to you God of heaven and earth. We rejoice on this Great day, joining with our brothers and sisters across the world and in celebration of Christ's resurrection.



You have brought back to life our Lord, who had died. What had been destroyed you have created anew. What we thought had ended bursts into a new beginning. Out of darkness emerges light, a light no one can quench.

We praise you for the resurrection of history when the women found the stone rolled away and the tomb empty. We praise you that Jesus met his followers face to face.

We praise you for the resurrection of today, for being lifted into your presence, new hearts and minds, changed communities and lives turned around by your amazing love.

We praise you for the resurrection that is to come, that will bring us, in your time, face to face with you, as we may stand in your presence.

Loving Father, remembering the great things you have done for us, on this day of celebration we recognise our weakness and come to you in sorrow and repentance for our sinfulness. We bow before you seeking forgiveness, for we confess with shame that we are not worthy of your love for us nor of the sacrifice of Your Son, who lay down his life for our eternal salvation. We have sinned against you by our selfishness and ingratitude, by our disobedience and lack of faith. We have failed to love you with all our heart soul mind and strength and failed to love and care for our neighbour. We have chosen to follow our own way, convinced of our own wisdom. We have neglected to praise and thank you for your blessings. Draw us close, embracing us once again in your loving arms, and grant us your forgiveness.

We thank you for your promise that will forgive our wickedness and remember our sin no more. We thank you that Jesus died for our sin, setting us right with you so we may share in his resurrection and receive your inheritance of eternal life. We thank you that he is the source of eternal salvation.

We proclaim your great and glorious name; Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of love, God of life, God of resurrection.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that we may be guided into all truth, and by his power equipped to do your work in the world.

We pray in the name of our risen Lord:

Our Father in heaven, holy be your name;  
your kingdom come; your will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever. Amen.

### **A Prayer for this time of Coronavirus**

God of love and healing we pray for the situation in which the world finds itself today with every country concerned and working to combat Coronavirus. On this day of resurrection, this day of new beginnings and of new life, we pray for your comfort and peace for all who mourn the loss of their loved ones, all who are anxious for themselves or their family's health and all who are worried about their financial situation. We ask your healing upon our Prime Minister and on all who have contracted the virus.

We ask your guidance and courage for all in positions of authority that they will make good and right decisions for the common good.

We thank you for the professionalism and dedication of our health service workers and all providing personal care for our frail and elderly. Grant them your protection that they may protect those least able to protect themselves.

We thank you for scientific knowledge and understanding. Guide all those giving advice. Grant insight and skill to all seeking vaccines and cures. We thank you for those who have converted production lines to produce medical supplies and equipment.

Grant patience, resilience and perseverance to all frustrated by isolation.

Show us what we can learn through the challenges this virus presents us, about living together, about caring for one another, about international relationships and about what is important and what is trivial.

We pray in the name of Jesus, our risen Lord. Amen.

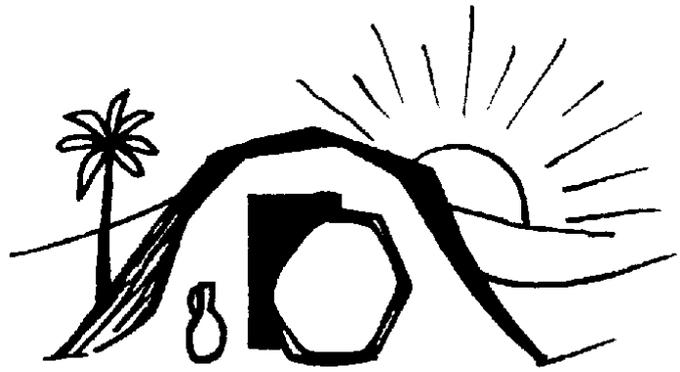
## Bible Passage

### John 20:1-18

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." <sup>3</sup> So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going towards the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' <sup>[a]</sup> head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup> for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to their homes.

<sup>11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. <sup>12</sup> And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. <sup>13</sup> They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." <sup>14</sup> Having said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

The tomb is empty!  
Christ is risen!  
Jesus lives!  
Alleluia!



Today we celebrate.  
Today we give thanks.  
Today we praise God our Father that  
his Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, is alive!  
What Jesus had told the disciples is true;

"The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. <sup>23</sup>They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life." (Matthew 17:22-23)

### **A letter from Mary**

*Dear Friend*

*We'd hardly slept since we'd all met with him when he broke the bread and blessed the wine. Well, how could we? And having seen him hanging there on the cross, breathing his last, and then the brutality of the soldiers thrusting a spear in his side, all we'd hoped, all we'd dreamed was gone - or so we thought.*

*When they placed him in the tomb it was nearly the Sabbath. There wasn't time to do the customary things with the spices that we had planned to do. So, I went with the other women, as early as we could, when it was still dark, on the Sunday morning.*

*On the way we wondered how we were going to move the stone so we could perform the anointing; but when we got there, we didn't know what to think. That huge stone in front of the tomb had been rolled aside. I wondered, had someone taken his body? It didn't feel right, so I just turned and ran, all the way back to the others. Breathless, I told Peter and John; "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we don't know where they have put him."*

*Without a word they both brushed passed me and ran, like athletes at Olympia. That was amazing really, looking back I mean.*

*Jesus always said he would rise from the dead but, when we saw what we saw that Sunday morning, none of us made the connection.*

*John got to the tomb first, but just stood at the entrance peering in. Then Peter arrived and ran straight in. There was nobody, but strangely, the burial cloths had been neatly folded, and the one for his head was just by itself. I thought someone had taken his body, but would anyone take the time or the bother to do that?*

*I was distraught. John and Peter went back home, but I just cried and cried. To see the way he died, and then not be able to do the anointing, and not know where his body was, who had taken it and what they might do to it - it was heart breaking.*

*Then someone asked me why I was crying. I thought it was the gardener and I accused him of taking Jesus. But he just said "Mary". At once I recognised the voice. It was Jesus. He was alive. I jumped up off my knees, stretched out my arms to hug him; but he said not to touch him. He was alive, but different. I could tell, even through my tears (tears of joy by now, not sadness) it was a new sort of life. It wasn't going to be just like it had been with him walking the byways and sharing meals with us. Of course, now I realise what he'd meant when he'd spoken about sending another comforter, the Holy Spirit to be our constant companion. But at that moment in the garden it was as if he was saying, "You can't possess me. You can't limit me to this time and place. You need to hold on to me in a different kind of way now."*

*It was just amazing. Then I went back to tell the others Jesus was alive and that everything he'd said was true.*

*Who'd have thought it, that it would be me, a simple Galilean woman from Magdala, who'd be the first to witness his resurrection and the first to tell the world?*

*With lots of love and Christ's blessing*

*Mary*

**Song: [In Christ alone my hope is found](#) [Click on the link](#)**

## Resurrection

So, today we celebrate Jesus resurrection, but what does it mean? What is its significance?

Mary initially thought that Jesus was the gardener. Of course, she was completely wrong. The person who spoke to Mary at the tomb wasn't the man from the Parks Department. However, she was also completely correct.

Jesus' resurrection marks a new beginning, he is the "firstfruits" of the new creation, as Paul puts it when writing to the Corinthians (1 Cor 15: 23).

Adam was the first man of creation. Genesis 2:15; "Then the Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it." Through that one man sin entered the world and the consequence of that sin is death. (Romans 6: 16 & 23) Jesus is the first man of the **new** creation, the second Adam. Because of him, death is conquered, the consequence of sin is dealt with. "For just as death came by means of a man, in the same way the rising from death comes by means of a man." (1 Corinthians 15:21) The new Adam, the new gardener, is tasked with bringing into order the chaos humankind had made of God's creation.

Jesus' resurrection proves that when earthly life is over that is not the end of human existence. It gives power and certainty to Jesus words to Martha; "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." Sin has been dealt with through Jesus' death on the cross. Jesus has conquered death by his resurrection; so we can be forgiven and live. "Where O death is your sting?" to quote 1 Corinthians 15:55.

These words of Paul, as interpreted in *The Message* make it clear, "Our old way of life was nailed to the cross with Christ, a decisive end to that sin-miserable life—no longer at sin's every beck and call! What we believe is this: if we get included in Christ's sin-conquering death, we also get included in his life-saving resurrection. We know that when Jesus was raised from the dead it was a signal of the end of death-as-the-end. Never again will death have the last word. When Jesus died, he took sin down with him, but alive he brings God down to us. From now on, think of it this way: Sin speaks a dead language that means nothing to you; God speaks your mother tongue, and you hang on every word. You are dead to sin and alive to God. That's what Jesus did." (Romans 6: 6-11)

That life we have in Jesus Christ, that eternal life with him is not something that begins when earthly life ends, it is something that begins the moment we have faith in him and know him as our Lord and Saviour. "This is eternal life," said Jesus, "that you may know the one true God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent." (John 17:3) Our life with God begins now and is never ending.

The resurrection tells us that the Kingdom of God is ruled by a living King. It is ruled by someone who is not just a person of history, but a person of now and a person of the future. As Jesus said through John's revelation, "I am the first and the last, and the Living one; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore" (Revelation 1:17-18).

Now is eternal life,  
If risen with Christ we stand,  
In him to life reborn,  
And held within his hand;  
No more we fear death's ancient dread,  
In Christ arisen from the dead.

*(George Wallace Briggs (1875-1959))*

### **Prayers of the People for the People**

Let us pray.

Lord at Easter you bring new life and hope.  
Lord, make yourself known.

Lord Jesus, on that first Easter morning, Mary Magdalene went seeking you, but she did not recognise your presence. So often we look for you in the world but are blinded by our own tears, yet you are there amongst us.

Lord, we cry for the people of Iraq, Syria, Israel and Palestine, Yemen, and all places and people, afflicted by oppression and war. Bring peace, O Lord, to the war-torn areas of your world. We pray that you will be with those suffering and those seeking to bring relief. Out of death and destruction, bring new life and hope. Lord, make yourself known.

We cry for those burdened by guilt, held captive by addictions or afflicted by abuse. Out of suffering and anguish bring new life and hope. Lord, make yourself known.

We cry for those who are sick, for those weighed down by caring for them. Out of disease and sickness bring healing and renewal, new life and hope. Lord, make yourself known.

We cry for those stressed by daily living, for those with demanding jobs, for those without jobs, for those who are persecuted for their beliefs, their race or their colour or gender. We cry for all weighed down by the burdens of life. Raise them up giving new life and hope. Lord, make yourself known.

Lord Jesus, help us to see through the tears of redundant relationships, tired habits and fruitless longings, that we may learn to live at one with each other and at one with you. Help us to love, with new life and hope. Lord, make yourself known.



Lord Jesus, Mary was the first to proclaim you as the risen Lord, and went to the disciples with the good news; be with your Church that we too may proclaim the Easter Gospel to all those we know and love, that our neighbours and the whole world may be filled with new life and hope. Lord, make yourself known.

Lord we remember the events of Good Friday and rejoice in the certainty of eternal life for all your faithful people, made known to us in the events of Easter Day. Look with compassion on those who have lost loved ones and may they experience the joy of Mary at your graveside, for we ask that you will turn the darkness of death into the dawn of life, and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven. Help us with the time that is left to us here on earth to turn to Christ, our risen Lord, and follow in his steps, in the way that leads to everlasting life.

Lord , giver of new life and hope make your-self known. AMEN

Hymn: [Thine be the glory](#) [click on the link](#)

### **Benediction and Blessing**

True and humble king,  
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:  
grant us the faith to know you and love you,  
that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross,  
which is the path of glory.

[Blessing](#) [click on the link](#)

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One of the consequences of us not being able to worship together is that the church anticipates a fall in income. However, we will continue to incur costs, of insurance etc. There will be little financial saving to our not meeting, yet revenues could be severely hit. Please prayerfully reflect on this and, if you are able, continue to put aside your financial offering so that you can make your contribution for the work of the church when we next meet together. Thank you.

Thank you too if you already give by standing order or by bank transfer, that is much appreciated.

