

**SERVICE SHEET FOR SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021**

**CALL TO WORSHIP.**

Merciful God:

We come together to worship longing for tenderness  
because this world can be hard.

We come longing for light  
because our lives are crowded with shadows.

We come desperately needing direction.

Fill us this morning with your peace:

your spirit is our peace and our path.

**HYMN:- StF 287. When I survey the wondrous cross.**

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross,  
on which the Prince of Glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
save in the death of Christ my God;  
all the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.
- 3 See from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 His dying crimson, like a robe,  
spreads o'er his body on the tree;  
then am I dead to all the globe,  
and all the globe is dead to me.
- 5 Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were an offering far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 287

**PRAYERS.**

God of things made utterly new, as we gather here in the name of the risen Christ,  
uplift us with his continuing Easter joy.

Extend our worship beyond habit, higher than loving duty,

and deeper into that universe of the spirit

where delight and praise flow more freely than the air we breathe.

To the glory of your name.

Wonderful God,

your love does not weary nor does your patience wear thin.

We thank you for understanding how difficult it is for us to always keep faithful to you in testing situations.

We thank you for going out of your way to get alongside us and giving us the chance to honestly face ourselves.

We thank you for forgiving mistakes and restoring us to full communion with you.

We thank you for trusting those who have failed you badly with new opportunities and responsibilities.

Wonderful God, your mercies are past numbering and your saving initiatives are never exhausted.

Thanks, praise, and glory belongs to you from all the ends of the earth.

Father, we are witnesses to the Resurrection,

yet we do not always follow Christ.

Merciful God...

How great your Easter triumph,

how thin our Easter response.

You invite us to follow you,

and we divert ourselves with the world's choices.

We admit our love when questioned,

but do not live in obedience,

and are not devoted to tending your flock.

Forgive us for the sins we see.

Save us from the sins we hide from ourselves.

As we acknowledge the depth of our sin, we see glory in God's redemption. Worthy is the Lamb, slaughtered to redeem us. To him and to God be all blessing and honour and glory and might. And to us: our sins are forgiven for Christ's sake. And for his sake we are the instrument chosen to witness the resurrection. By the power of the Holy Spirit we may feed the lambs, tend the sheep and bring the name of Jesus Christ before all people saying "He is the Son of God" To the glory of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

**LORD'S PRAYER.**

**1<sup>ST</sup> READING:- Psalm 150.**

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING:- John 20:19-31.**

**MESSAGE.**

**HYMN:- StF 418. We have a gospel to proclaim.**

- 1 We have a gospel to proclaim,  
good news for all throughout the earth;  
the gospel of a Saviour's name:  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.
- 2 Tell of his birth at Bethlehem --  
not in a royal house or hall,  
but in a stable dark and dim,  
the Word made flesh, a light for all.
- 3 Tell of his death at Calvary:  
hated by those he came to save,  
in lonely suffering on the cross,  
for all he loved his life he gave.
- 4 Tell of that glorious Easter morn:  
empty the tomb, for he was free.  
He broke the power of death and hell  
that we might share his victory.
- 5 Tell of his reign at God's right hand,  
by all creation glorified.  
He sends his Spirit on his Church  
to live for him, the Lamb who died.
- 6 Now we rejoice to name him King:  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
This gospel-message we proclaim:  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Edward Joseph Burns (b. 1938)

Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 418  
Words: (c) Canon Edward J. Burns

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION.**

Lord, we pray for the nation of which we are part. Help us to remember that we all share in the responsibility for the ethics by which we are governed for, truly, no man is an island, entire of itself, but a part of the main. Help us to strengthen our own moral standards, and thereby those of our national institutions, so that we may be governed according to the laws you have written in our hearts.

**Lord, you promised us that heaviness may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning; in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Lord, we give thanks for those who share their lives with us, our families, our friends, and our neighbours. We thank you for all those who help to hold the community together, as we build up our common life. Help us to be part of the solution, rather than part of the problem. We pray that we may be aware of the needy and provide for those who lack food, work or shelter, particularly in these times of economic difficulty.

**Lord, you promised us that heaviness may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning; in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Lord, we pray for any who are finding life difficult or distressing, for those whose relationships are in jeopardy, and for homes where there is sorrow and darkness. We ask you to look mercifully on any who are grieved with guilt because they have wronged those whom they love: restore the broken relationships and heal the wounds of past betrayals. We pray for any who are distressed by regrets and remorse, and for those who have lost confidence in themselves or the world around them. Strengthen us, we pray, to be your presence to the sick, the weak and the dying and to offer them your comfort and your hope.

**Lord, you promised us that heaviness may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning; in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**HYMN:- StF 297. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.**

- 1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.
- 2 Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching every place and time.
- 3 In every insult, rift and war,  
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.
- 4 Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.
- 5 Christ is alive and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Brian Wren (b. 1936)

Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 297  
Words: (c) 1969, 1995, Stainer & Bell Ltd, 23 Gruneisen Road, London N3  
1DZ <[www.stainer.co.uk](http://www.stainer.co.uk)>

**BLESSING AND DISMISSAL.**

