

**Transformation – NOW!  
Eastertide**

**This joyful Eastertide**

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

This joyful Eastertide,  
away with sin and sorrow.  
My Love, the Crucified,  
has sprung to life this morrow:  
*Had Christ, that once was slain,  
Ne'er burst his three-day prison,  
Our faith had been in vain:  
But now hath Christ arisen,  
Arisen, arisen, arisen!*

My flesh in hope shall rest,  
and for a season slumber:  
till trump from east to west:  
shall wake the dead in number:  
*Chorus*

Death's flood hath lost its chill,  
since Jesus crossed the river:  
lover of souls, from ill  
my passing soul deliver:  
*Chorus*

*George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)  
arr. Charles Wood*

## **Opening Prayer**

In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

*Acts 2:17, 18*

Mighty God,  
you came through your Spirit  
and life was never the same again.

**Come to us now,  
breathing new fire into our hearts,  
new energy into our lives,  
new life into our souls.  
Transform our fear, anxiety and doubt,  
filling us with confidence and faith.  
Move in us, we pray.**

Open our minds to new horizons, new experiences  
and a new way of looking at life.  
And so may we live by the Spirit,  
bearing rich fruit to your glory.

**Move in us, we pray,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen**

## **Bible Reading: John 20: 24-29 (NIV)**

Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.”

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

## **Reflection: Almost a Creed**

(inspired by Psalm 20)

*By Bruce Prewer*

Do we believe?

Yes, in spite of ourselves, we do believe!

While some follow fad and fashion,  
changing with the seasons in Paris, London and New York,  
we follow the man from Nazareth.

While some put their hope in a big lotto win,  
or chase profits at no matter what cost to family,

we put our hope in loving one another as our Christ has loved us.

While some may give in to a sophisticated cynicism,  
or some fall into apathy or despair,  
we put our faith in the God who has given us his only true son.

While some may boast of their superior education,  
culture, race, or living standard,  
we boast in the self-giving of that Son on a Cross.

While some try to justify themselves by prizing fame or power,  
or by claiming superior morals,  
we allow the grace of our Lord to Jesus to be our best prize.

Because of Jesus,  
yes, we believe in the living God  
by whose Holy Spirit all things are open to change and renewal.

And that includes us and the church,  
thanks be to God!

**Love's redeeming work is done**  
*sung by St Martin's Voices*

Love's redeeming work is done;  
fought the fight, the battle won:  
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er!  
lo, he sets in blood no more!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal!  
Christ has burst the gates of hell;  
death in vain forbids his rise;  
Christ has opened Paradise.

Lives again our glorious King;  
Where, O death, is now thy sting?  
Dying once, he all doth save;  
where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led,  
following our exalted Head;  
made like him, like him we rise;  
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!  
Praise to thee by both be given:  
thee we greet triumphant now;  
hail, the Resurrection Thou!

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

## **Prayers**

### **A responsive litany** (inspired by Psalm 66)

O God, who made the world and everything in it,  
we pray with one voice, proclaiming your presence to all the  
earth.

For sceptics and believers, for clergy high and low;  
For those who seek God at home, at work, in the streets,  
and in the pews,  
For all who search for life, come and listen:

**And we will tell you what our God has done for us.**

We are alive in the spirit.

We are saved through water.

Because Christ lives, we also live.

**For we too are God's offspring.**

For presidents and prime ministers, for bosses and wardens;

For those who set the course at home, at work, in the streets, and in the pews,

For all who wield power, come and listen:

**And we will tell you what our God has done for us.**

We do not fear what others fear.

We proclaim the hope that is in us.

Because Christ lives, we also live.

**For we too are God's offspring.**

For friends and lovers, for neighbors and strangers,

For those who eat bread at home, at work, in the streets, and in the pews,

For all who live in the world, come and listen:

**And we will tell you what our God has done for us.**

In God, we live and move and have our being.

From God, we have life and breath and all things.

Because Christ lives, we also live.

**For we too are God's offspring.**

For the sick and troubled, for the fearful and alone,

For those in pain at home, at work, in the streets, and in the pews,

For all who suffer, come and listen:

**And we will tell you what our God has done for us.**

Our prayers are not rejected.

Our souls are held in life.

In truth, our God has heard us,  
and love is not withheld.

Because Christ lives, we also live.

**For we too are God's offspring.**

For those kept in memory, for those long forgotten,  
For all who ever took the breath of life at home, at work, in  
the streets, and in the pews,

For the dead and those who mourn them, come and listen:

**And we will tell you what our God has done for us.**

We are blessed by your presence.

We are filled with the Spirit.

Because Christ lives, we also live.

**For we too are God's offspring.**

God of heaven and earth,

Companion in life, Spirit of truth,

to you alone we turn our eyes and lift our hearts.

**Amen.**

*written by Margaret D. McGee*

## **Our Diocesan Mothers' Union Prayer**

**Heavenly Father, as we meet  
as members of Mothers' Union in Manchester  
may we know your presence and hear your word.  
Teach us how best to serve you, seeing not just the  
needs of this diocese but those of the wider world.  
Help us at all times to trust in you and seek to do  
your will. Fill us with your spirit, encourage us, use us  
and bless us, that we may have strength to follow  
your way.**

**We pray in sure hope  
and the assurance of your power.  
Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

**We Go As Hope-Carriers**

**We thank You, Lord, for re-igniting the flame of  
hope within us,  
for filling our hearts with light and evicting the  
darkness,  
and for giving a new vision of Your glory. Amen.**

**Go now, as light-bearers to a world in darkness,  
Go now, as hope-carriers to a world in despair;**

**We go in the name of Christ,  
in the love of God  
and in the power of the Spirit.  
Amen.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise**  
*sung by St Martin's Voices*

Alleluia, Alleluia!  
hearts to heaven and voices raise;  
sing to God a hymn of gladness,  
sing to God a hymn of praise:  
he who on the Cross a victim  
for the world's salvation bled,  
Jesus Christ the King of glory,  
now is risen from the dead.

Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits  
of the holy harvest field,  
which will all its full abundance  
at his second coming yield;  
then the golden ears of harvest  
will their heads before him wave,  
ripened by his glorious sunshine,  
from the furrows of the grave.

Christ is risen, we are risen;  
shed upon us heavenly grace,  
rain and dew, and gleams of glory  
from the brightness of thy face;  
that we, with our hearts in heaven,  
here on earth may fruitful be,  
and by angel-hands be gathered,  
and be ever, Lord, with thee.

Alleluia, Alleluia,  
glory be to God on high;  
Alleluia to the Saviour,  
who has gained the victory;  
Alleluia to the Spirit,  
fount of love and sanctity;  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
to the Triune Majesty.

*Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885)*

Thank you for joining in with Thursday Prayers.

Choral music: The Church of England St Martin in the Fields  
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Readers: Barbara Pye, Bob Taylor, Christine Sharp, James  
Emmerson, Andrea Walsh, Jenni Beaumont, Ross  
Garner

CCLI: 5097385

**Next Thursday Prayers will be on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022 - Pentecost**