

twelvebaskets

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EASTER 3A

23rd April 2023

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Hymn:

313 STF – Thine be the glory - [YouTube](#)

Opening Prayers

Come gather, come worship,
Come and explore the miracle of a love so describable, so alive, so personal, so universal.

Come and love, as you were first loved,
For here, for you – yes even you – are truly welcome.

Pause

As you sit here in this space you call your own, ready to meet the living God remember.....

You are connected to people of faith worshipping in different ways and places.
You are part of a community of saints that have worshipped for generations.
You are joined with others across the world choosing to do the same.
Here in this special space where God has been for all time you are free to worship.

So take a moment and give thanks in the quiet places of your heart:

For all you have,
All you are,
And all you might be.

Pause

If you feel able speak the following:

All I have, all I am and all I might be I offer to you as I worship – today and always
Amen.¹

You may now wish to say the Lord's Prayer in a version or translation with which you are most familiar

Reading: Luke 24:13-35 – [Click for reading](#)

Response to the reading

Today's gospel reading is a famous one – of the encounter between Cleopas and his companion (often assumed to be his wife or partner, but we really don't know) and the risen Jesus.

¹ Opening prayers written by Jane Bingham

It's a beautiful story about evangelism, and what relationship looks like. What are your initial responses to it? If you've got time, why not read the passage through again, and see how it speaks to you today.

Some questions to reflect on / ponder as you think about what your response to the reading might be today:

- What do you think Jesus might have said to the disciples during that moment when he 'opened up the scriptures' for them?
- Cleopas describes how he 'hoped for so much more'. What hopes have you had in your life, that have not come to pass, or have slipped out of your grasp? Have you made space to lament and grieve them?
- The 'good news' of Jesus' resurrection gives Cleopas and his companion itchy feet and they run all the way back the way they've just come to share it. Do you still have this passion for sharing good news with people? Are you able to articulate how it is that Jesus, and the story of resurrection, gives you hope? How would you go about explaining that hope to someone else today? Have a think about whether there is someone in your life that you'd like to try to share with about this – who could you tell a story of hope to this week?

Once you've had chance to think about these, you might like to write or doodle your answers, or find someone you trust to talk about the questions with.

Hold a moment of prayer to offer up all that has come up in this time to God.

Hymn:

156 STF – From the breaking of the dawn to the setting of the sun - [YouTube](#)

Blessing

And so I rise from this space. May I meet with Jesus on the road, as I join in with the travelling, wandering people of God. Go and seek for him, listen to him, and be transformed by the encounter with love.

Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers for the Week

Monday 24th April

- Look at your hands, perhaps hold them open before you for a moment.
- How have you used your hands today? Has it been to make the world a better place, or not?
- How could you use your hands for the rest of this day, and this week, to plant seeds of hope – literal or metaphorical?
- Pray for the courage to be involved in life-giving wherever you can.

Tuesday 25th April

- Take a look at the spring flowers and new growth near you – perhaps from a window, or by going for a walk.
- Say a prayer of thanks for these signs of new life, and for the miracle of resurrection, going on all around us, all the time.

Wednesday 26th April

- Gracious God, today I pray for all those who work in medicine and medical care.
For ambulance drivers, doctors, nurses, other hospital staff, for people working on research and in labs, for administrators and medics everywhere.
As they seek to heal, to mend, to care for, and relieve suffering,
May they know something of your grace in their lives,
Amen.

Thursday 27th April

- Seek stillness today. As often as you can, and for as long as you can, try to hold moments of silent prayer. Do not try to say any words, or hear anything in particular. Just hold the stillness. If it helps you to focus on your breathing, or a particular mantra, do that, otherwise, just still the monkey-chatter in your mind and be present.
- Be still and know that I am God.

Friday 28th April

- Today is 'International Dance Day'.
Why not listen to this, or another recording of 'I am the Lord of the Dance', and pray it as a prayer. If you are able, why not try out a few moves of your own while you pray!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gtM8BRF7Bd0>
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Saturday 29th April

- Today is the day that some traditions mark as the 'Saint Day' of Pope Pius the Fifth, who was the Pope in the 16th century, during Council of Trent, the meeting at which the Catholic Church sought to respond to the Reformation and the growth of Protestantism in Europe.
- Today, let us pray for all involved in church leadership and administration. We recognise that the church is a broken, human institution that has made – and continues to make – a great many mistakes, but we also recognise that for over 2,000 years, God has made use of the church to display grace, love and hope in the world.
- Be at work in your church today, O God, we pray. Amen.