

A Time of Prayer Together: 'DO NOT BE AFRAID' (EASTER SEASON)

Opening Words (from Psalm 118)

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
God's steadfast love endures for ever.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Easter Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Canticle

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

A Bible reading could be read here...

Silence and listening to God

We sit for a few moments in silence...

We bring our prayers to God

You might like to pray for...

*God's church, as we proclaim the good news of
resurrection, sharing together in our love and care
for one another and for all God's creation;*

*Those suffering through illness, loneliness,
isolation, depression or anxiety;*

*Those who are bereaved and cannot hold funerals
as they would wish;*

Those who are separated from loved ones;

God's world, and the leaders of the world;

Our government and their advisors;

*Our NHS, and all who work in the hospitals and
emergency services;*

*The shop workers, farmers, factory workers, postal
staff, delivery drivers, and all who keep our
essential services going at risk to their own health;
The communities in which we live and work;
Families struggling to make ends meet, or to deal
with the complications of the current restrictions.*

God of all holiness,
your promises stand unshaken through all
generations and you lift up all who are
burdened and brought low.
Renew our hope in you,
as we wait for the coming in glory
of Jesus Christ, our Judge and our Saviour,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Closing Prayer

Risen Lord Jesus,
Help us not to be afraid,
though we live in uncertain times;
Help us not to give up,
though the end is not yet in sight;
Help us to live by the ways of your kingdom,
though everything else changes around us;
Help us to forgive ourselves,
if today we have not been at our best;
Help us to forgive others,
if today they have not been their best with us.
For you are risen! Death has been defeated.
Love has won. And you are still with us. Amen.

Light a candle...

May Christ, the Morning Star which never sets,
find the flame of love still burning within us:
Christ, who came back from the dead,
who sheds his peaceful light on all the world,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Suggested Bible Readings:

From the Lectionary:

Good Friday 10th April

- Psalm 22
- John chapter 18 v.1 – ch.19 v.42

Holy Saturday 11th April

- Psalm 31
- Matthew 27: verses 57-66

Easter Sunday 12th April

- Matthew 28: verses 1-10
- Colossians chapter 3: verses 1-4
- John 20: verses 1-18

Sunday 19th April (2nd Sunday of Easter)

- Psalm 16
- John chapter 20: verses 19-31
- 1 Peter chapter 1: verses 3-9

Sunday 26th April (3rd Sunday of Easter)

- Psalm 116
- Luke chapter 24: verses 13-35
- 1 Peter chapter 1: verses 17-23

Sunday 3rd May (4th Sunday of Easter)

- Psalm 23
- John chapter 10: verses 1-10
- 1 Peter chapter 2: verses 19-25

Sunday 10th May (5th Sunday of Easter)

- Psalm 31
- John 14: verses 1-14
- 1 Peter 2: verses 2-10

Sunday 17th May (6th Sunday of Easter)

- Psalm 66
- John 14: verses 15-21
- Acts 17: verses 22-31
- 1 Peter 3: verses 13-22

Ascension Day, Thursday 21st May

- Luke 24: verses 44-53
- Acts chapter 1: verses 1-11
- Ephesians 1: verses 15-23

Sunday 24th May (7th Sunday of Easter)

- Psalm 68
- John 17: verses 1-11
- Acts chapter 1: verses 6-14

Other short passages which may be appropriate or helpful during a time of prayer:

- Psalm 23
- Psalm 121
- Isaiah 41: verses 8-10
- Isaiah 41: verses 17-20
- Isaiah 43: verses 1-7
- Isaiah 49: verses 13-16
- Jeremiah 1: verses 4-8
- Matthew 18: verses 10-14
- Matthew 18: verses 19-20
- Matthew 28: verses 16-20
- John 10: verses 11-18
- John 10: verses 27-30
- Romans 8: verses 18-27
- Romans 8: verses 28-30
- Romans 8: verses 31-39
- Ephesians 3: verses 14-21
- Philippians 4: verses 4-9
- Colossians 2: verses 1-17
- 1 Peter chapter 1: verses 3-9
- Revelation 21: verses 1-7

Times when we might all like to pause (wherever we are) to pray together:

Fridays at 12noon – 12.30pm

Sundays at 10.30am – 11.00am

Sundays at 5.00pm – 5.30pm

And it is suggested that we light a candle in our windows on Sunday evenings.

If you have access to the internet, please visit our website: www.harboroughmethodistcircuit.org.uk