



‘Worship at home’ April 24th 2022



A new day is dawning.
Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!

Light a candle to remind yourself that Christ is indeed risen, bringing light and the promise of new life.

Easter was not a once-off event: the events of Easter did not signify the end, but the beginning.

As the first disciples experienced Christ’s ongoing presence, so do we as his Spirit continues at work today in our world, and in our lives.

Opening

A new day is dawning.
Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen, indeed!

God is alive...
New birth is given.

Hope is alive...
A new day is dawning.

Joy is alive...
Redemption is here.

Love is alive...
Death cannot harm us.

We are alive...
New life is within us.

The church is alive...
God’s spirit is within us.
God of life, we worship you.

God of creation, we praise you.

God of revelation, we learn from you.

God of resurrection, we come to celebrate you.



10,000 Reasons Matt Redmond

~ adapted from *Life in Liturgy* <https://lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com/>

John 20:19-31

That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said. As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." One of the twelve disciples Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. They told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand

into the wound in his side." Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said. Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!" "My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed. Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me." The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name. New Living Translation

Thomas wasn't ready to believe that Christ had risen until he experienced it for himself. Some aspects of our faith can be difficult to believe: stones rolled away, bodies gone, angels from heaven, people appearing through locked doors are not a



part of our usual experience. Our faith is a mystery we will never fully understand. However, it seems that those disciples experienced the presence of the risen Christ with them, in a new and amazing way. We are reminded that our faith is not a system of beliefs to be accepted at face value, rather faith is a relationship with a living God who offers each of us peace, forgiveness and love, bringing hope and new opportunities.

Lord Jesus Christ,
in this world where hopes are so often dashed
and dreams so often broken,
we remember today the faith in the future
you brought to so many,
both through your coming
and through your resurrection from the dead.



Where faith has waned and dreams have faded,
may hope bring forth new opportunities.

We remember how Mary and Joseph looked forward
to the day of your birth,
how shepherds and magi caught their breath in wonder
as they knelt before you,
how the hearts of Anna and Simeon leapt in anticipation,
and how your disciples
and the crowds that flocked to hear you gave thanks,
convinced that you were the Messiah,
the one God had promised,
the long-awaited deliverer come to set them free.

Where faith has waned and dreams have faded,
may hope bring forth new opportunities.

We remember how that vision of the future
was shattered by events to follow –
your pain, humiliation, suffering and death –
hope ebbing away as the lifeblood seeped from your body –
an end to their dreams, an end to everything.

Where faith has waned and dreams have faded,
may hope bring forth new opportunities.

We remember how the news spread that the tomb was empty,
the stone rolled away, your body gone,
and how despite it all,
your followers could scarcely bring themselves to hope –
afraid to take the risk of faith
in case they should face the heartache of losing you once more.

Where faith has waned and dreams have faded,
may hope bring forth new opportunities.

But we remember finally how you appeared,
in all your risen glory –
in the garden,
in the upstairs room,
on the Emmaus road,
by the Sea of Galilee –
and the dream was born again,
the smouldering embers of faith rekindled.

Where faith has waned and dreams have faded,
may hope bring forth new opportunities.

Lord Jesus Christ, a world is waiting,
hurting, longing,
searching for hope,
crying out for meaning,
hungry for some reason to believe in the future.
Come again in your living power,
and bring new life to all.

Where faith has waned and dreams have faded,
may hope bring forth new opportunities.

In your name we pray. Amen

- adapted from Nick Fawcett, [Prayer for All Seasons Book 2](#)
posted on the Church of Scotland's [Starters for Sunday](#) website

Closing

We hear Jesus' words to his disciples in the room... *"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."*

**How might you offer peace, forgiveness and love
to those around you this week?**