

### **Words for the Pool Mission Area Easter Sunday Service**

Within our darkest night you kindle the fire that never dies away, that never dies away,  
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#### **XV Easter Dawn- Malcolm Guite**

He blesses every love which weeps and grieves  
And now he blesses hers who stood and wept  
And would not be consoled, or leave her love's  
Last touching place, but watched as low light crept  
Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs  
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.  
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,  
Or recognise the Gardener standing there.  
She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why,  
Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light  
That brightens as she chokes out her reply  
'They took my love away, my day is night'  
And then she hears her name, she hears Love say  
The Word that turns her night, and ours, to day.

*As the Easter Candle is lit*  
May the light of Christ, rising in glory,  
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.  
The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

#### **The Exsultet – tune: Woodlands (Tell out my Soul)**

**Sing Choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing!  
Around God's throne exult in harmony!  
Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!  
Salute your king in glorious symphony.  
  
Sing choirs of earth! Behold your light has come!  
The glory of the Lord shines radiantly,  
Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!  
The night is past- the day of life is here!  
  
Sing church of God! Exult with joy outpoured.  
The gospel trumpets tell of victory won!  
Your Saviour lives! He's with you ever more!  
Let all God's people shout the long Amen.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

### **Preparation**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Confession**

Heavenly Father,  
we have sinned in thought, word and deed,  
and have failed to do what we ought to have done.  
We are sorry and truly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and lead us in his way  
to walk as children of light. Amen.

*Hear now the words of Jesus for all who are truly sorry and seek to renew their lives:*  
'Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace; come and follow me.'

### **Thanksgiving**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, creator of all,  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
You founded the earth in the beginning  
and the heavens are the work of your hands.  
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,  
and in these last days you have spoken to us  
in your Son Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.  
As we rejoice in the gift of your presence among us  
let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,  
your Spirit ever renew our lives  
and your praises ever be on our lips.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Blessed be God for ever.

### **Psalm 118**

**R Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**This is the day the Lord has made**

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his mercy endures for ever.

Let Israel now proclaim,  
'His mercy endures for ever.' **R**

The Lord is my strength and my song,  
and he has become my salvation.  
Joyful shouts of salvation  
sound from the tents of the righteous:  
'The right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds;  
the right hand of the Lord raises up;  
the right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds.' **R**

I shall not die, but live  
and declare the works of the Lord.

The Lord has punished me sorely,  
but he has not given me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord. **R**

This is the gate of the Lord;  
the righteous shall enter through it.

I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone. **R**

This is the Lord's doing,  
and it is marvellous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it. **R**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

#### **First Reading Acts 10.34-43**

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

## Hymn This Easter Celebration – Tune: Aurelia (The Church’s One Foundation)

This Easter celebration is not like ones we’ve known.  
We pray in isolation, we sing the hymns alone.  
We’re distant from our neighbors— from worship leaders, too.  
No flowers grace the chancel to set a festive mood.

No gathered choirs are singing; no banners lead the way.  
O God of love and promise, where’s joy this Easter Day?  
With sanctuaries empty, may homes become the place  
we ponder resurrection and celebrate your grace.

Our joy won’t come from worship that’s in a crowded room  
but from the news of women who saw the empty tomb. |  
Our joy comes from disciples who ran with haste to see—  
who heard that Christ is risen, and then, by grace, believed.

In all the grief and suffering, may we remember well:  
Christ suffered crucifixion and faced the powers of hell.  
Each Easter bears the promise: Christ rose that glorious day!  
Now nothing in creation can keep your love away.

We thank you that on Easter, your church is blessed to be  
a scattered, faithful body that’s doing ministry.  
In homes and in the places of help and healing, too,  
we live the Easter message by gladly serving you.

*(April 1, 2020 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)*

### **Gospel Reading John 20.1-18**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him

away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

### **Gospel Canticle**

1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,  
who has come to his people and set them free.  
2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,  
born of the house of his servant David.  
3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old  
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,  
4 To show mercy to our ancestors,  
and to remember his holy covenant.  
5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
6 Free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.  
7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
8 To give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.  
9 In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now |  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

### **The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary

and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

After 'Risen Lord' respond: **Deliver us from the dominion of darkness and death**

### **The Collect**

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## Closing prayer

In darkness and in light, in trouble and in joy,  
help us, heavenly Father, to trust your love,  
to serve your purpose, and to praise your name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Conclusion

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with all who pray this day in his holy name,  
now and for evermore. Amen

### Hymn: Thine be the glory

**1 Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son:**  
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won;  
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

**Refrain:**

*Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.*

**2 Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;**  
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing,  
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting. [Refrain]

**3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;**  
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conqu'rors, through thy deathless love:  
bring us safe through' Jordan to thy home above. [Refrain]