

**Bury St Edmunds Circuit.**   
**The Methodist Church**

**WORSHIP SHEET FOR  
EASTER DAY 2020**

Welcome to worship on this glorious day when we celebrate the Risen Lord.

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

*If you have a flower then hold  
your flower and imagine placing  
it on the cross as we sing*



**HYMN**

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=easter+hymns&view=detail&mid=F08A75EB5533D4BF4164F08A75EB5533D4BF4164&&FORM=VRD GAR&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3Deaster%2520hymns%26qs%3Dn%26form%3DQBVD MH%26sp%3D-1%26ghc%3D2%26pq%3Deaster%2520hymn%26sc%3D8-11%26sk%3D%26cvid%3D93791D1B6D884F7488BD62A356E4FDB8>

- 1 Christ the Lord is risen today ;  
*Alleluia !*  
All creation joins to say :  
*Alleluia !*  
Raise your joys and triumphs high ;  
*Alleluia !*  
Sing, you heavens ; let earth, reply :  
*Alleluia !*
- 2 Love's redeeming work is done,  
*Alleluia !*  
Fought the fight, the battle won ;  
*Alleluia !*  
Vain the stone, the watch, the seal ;  
*Alleluia !*  
Christ has burst the gates of hell :  
*Alleluia !*
- 3 Lives again our glorious King ;  
*Alleluia !*  
Where, O death, is now your sting ?  
*Alleluia !*  
Once he died our souls to save ;  
*Alleluia !*  
Where's your victory, boasting grave ?  
*Alleluia !*
- 4 Soar we now where Christ has led,  
*Alleluia !*  
Following our exalted Head ;  
*Alleluia !*  
Made like him, like him we rise ;  
*Alleluia !*  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies :  
*Alleluia !*

5 King of Glory! Soul of bliss!  
*Alleluia !*  
Everlasting life is this,  
*Alleluia !*  
You to know, your power to prove,  
*Alleluia !*  
Thus to sing, and thus to love :  
*Alleluia !*

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

**PRAYERS**

Let us pray.

Glory to you, O God:  
you raised Jesus from the grave,  
bringing us victory over death  
and giving us eternal life.

Glory to you, O Christ:  
for us and for our salvation  
you overcame death  
and opened the gate to everlasting life.

Glory to you, O Holy Spirit:  
you lead us into the truth  
and breathe new life into us.

Glory to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

If we have fallen into despair,  
**Lord, forgive us.**

If we have failed to hope in you,  
**Lord, forgive us.**

If we have been fearful of death,  
**Lord, forgive us.**

If we have forgotten the victory of Christ,  
**Lord, forgive us.**

*Silence*

May the living God  
raise us from despair,  
give us victory over sin  
and set us free in Christ. **Amen.**

**GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 28 : 1 – 10 New International Version

**Jesus has risen**

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. 5 The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: "He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him." Now I have told you.'

8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. 'Greetings,' he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

## SERMON

Matthew 28 : 1

At dawn on the first day of the week Mary and Mary went to the tomb.

and from verse 7

He is not here; he is risen

As we walk through very different times to that of previous years try to look at the story through new eyes. Easter is a living experience for us and we have to go down into our hearts.

Try to capture the emotions, the vision, the experience, the wonder of it all.

The walk – this is personal emotion; you are taking that journey to the tomb, why are you going there after all you know that Jesus is dead?

The wonder – what earth has taken place over the last few days, what will the future hold?

The emotion – there in front of you is Jesus and he is talking to you, what is he saying to you?

The Sufi mystic Rumi says "the quieter you become, the more you are able to hear" We are used to noise and of busyness, but now as many are self-isolating we can use this time to look at the Easter story in a different way.

Today in the quietness Mary approached the tomb, in the quietness we approach the tomb, in the quietness of our lives we can hear so much more. Mary was asked to tell people that he is alive. In our actions and reactions we too witness that Jesus is alive.

The Resurrection account begins, 'Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark....' With these opening words, we already see that this is a story of new life, new birth. To a first-century Jewish listener, 'The first day' would suggest the first verses of the Book of Genesis, and the first day of creation:

"Darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters".

And  
"God said, 'Let there be light: and there was light'."

Darkness is a powerful metaphor for God and faith. 'God' is always beyond our reach, always beyond our understanding, and similarly, 'faith' is a journey made not with physical sight but in the darkness: in the soul, we are constantly reaching out, stretching forward in the hope of encounter with the Eternal.

And so Easter Day this year will have new meaning to us all, but it is a message of hope. And in these times when we may struggle, or be scared, or worry, then in the darkness let us reach out our hand and realise that the tomb is empty, Christ is risen, and he gives us the hope to go forward in faith.

Christ is risen; he is risen indeed  
Alleluia!

## PRAYERS

In the power of the resurrection we offer our prayers to God.

Let us pray.

Remember, O Lord, in your love  
the Church throughout the world . . .  
those recently baptized and confirmed . . .  
those who minister to others . . .  
those who cannot meet together today as  
they would normally have done ....

*Silence*

May your whole Church know your power and be a sign that Christ is risen.

Lord of life,  
**hear us in your love.**

Remember in your love the world you have made . . .  
those who suffer because of the coronavirus  
those who have lost loved ones  
those who are lonely in isolation  
the key workers who continue to help others  
in so many differing ways

*Silence*

May the whole earth be transformed by mercy  
and rejoice in hope.

Lord of life,  
**hear us in your love.**

Remember in your love those who suffer . . .  
the victims of violence and injustice  
those who suffer abuse from those that they  
live with  
those who are ill

*Silence*

May all in need find comfort, strength and  
freedom in the living Christ.

Lord of life,  
**hear us in your love.**

Remember in your love those who have died:  
those who have confessed the faith  
and those whose faith is known to you alone.

*Silence*

May all your children receive grace and light  
according to their needs and come at last to  
share with all the saints in life eternal.

Lord of life,  
**hear us in your love.**

Gracious God, we ask these prayers through  
Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Saviour.  
**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

We say together the prayer that Jesus gave us:

**Our Father who art in heaven ....**

## **HYMN**

*The link below for this hymn will bring you to a version sung by Noel Richards (who wrote this hymn) whilst on tour in Budapest. He sings it first in English and then, I assume, in Hungarian. It reminds us of our unity throughout the world in the risen Lord. As we sing, listen or read this hymn we prepare ourselves to share in the Lovefeast one of the many meals that Jesus shared with his disciples*

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=youtube+all+heaven+declares&docid=607989647281818219&mid=F4C9E17195FBEB1BDE2AF4C9E17195FBE1BDE2A&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>

- 1 All heaven declares  
the glory of the risen Lord ;  
who can compare  
with the beauty of the Lord ?  
For ever he will be  
the Lamb upon the throne ;  
I gladly bow the knee,  
and worship him alone.
- 2 I will proclaim  
the glory of the risen Lord,  
who once was slain  
to reconcile us to God.  
For ever you will be  
the Lamb upon the throne ;  
I gladly bow the knee,  
and worship you alone.

Noël Richards (b. 1955) and Tricia Richards (b. 1960)

## **THE PEACE**

The risen Christ came and stood among his  
disciples and  
said: 'Peace be with you!'

Then they were glad when they saw the Lord.

Alleluia! The peace of the risen Christ be  
always with you.

**And also with you. Alleluia!**

*Take time to remember the people you would  
have shared the peace with this morning as we  
greet one another in the name of the risen Lord.*

## A METHODIST LOVEFEAST

Today we are unable to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion but we are going to share in a Methodist Lovefeast. (*information about this in the newsletter*)

Charles Wesley only wrote one hymn for a love feast, STF 646 – we read the words through

- 1 Come, and let us sweetly join  
Christ to praise in hymns divine ;  
give we all with one accord  
glory to our common Lord,  
hands and hearts and voices raise,  
sing as in the ancient days,  
antedate the joys above,  
celebrate the feast of love.
- 2 Jesu, dear expected Guest,  
thou art bidden to the feast ;  
for thyself our hearts prepare,  
come, and rest, and banquet there.  
Sanctify us, Lord, and bless,  
breathe thy Spirit, give thy peace ;  
thou thyself within us move,  
make our feast a feast of love.
- 3 Let us join — 'tis God commands —  
let us join our hearts and hands ;  
help to gain our calling's hope,  
build we each the other up.  
God his blessings shall dispense,  
God shall crown his ordinance,  
here in his appointed ways  
nourish us with social grace.
- 4 Hence may all our actions flow,  
love the proof that Christ we know ;  
mutual love the token be,  
Lord, that we belong to thee.  
Love, thine image, love impart !  
Stamp it on our face and heart !  
Only love to us be given !  
Lord, we ask no other heaven.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

We come to share in this Love Feast as we recall the many meals Jesus shared with his disciples during his ministry..

*Please take the cake/ bread  
or biscuit as we eat together*



We remember the fellowship enjoyed within the body of Christ

*We drink the water*



*Silence as we recall God's grace and  
goodness*

Let us pray.

**God of our salvation,  
we thank you that we share again with the  
risen Christ  
and with all who love him in earth and  
heaven.**

**We pray that, strengthened by his grace,  
we may serve you faithfully all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### HYMN

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=youtube+hine+be+the+glory&ru=%2fsearch%3fq%3dyoutub e%2bthine%2bbe%2bthe%2bglory%26form%3dE DNTHT%26mkt%3den-gb%26httpsmsn%3d1%26 msnews%3d1%26plvar%3d0%26refig%3d517418 35f6c14960be5b3874497923a5%26sp%3d-1%26 ghc%3d1%26pq%3dyoutube%2bthine%2bbe%2bt he%2bglory%26sc%3d1-26%26qs%3dn%26sk%3 d%26cvid%3d51741835f6c14960be5b387449792 3a5&view=detail&mid=4822BE5FC455442FEB32 4822BE5FC455442FEB32&&FORM=VDRVRV>

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

*Thine be the glory,  
risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory  
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 :

- 3 No more we doubt thee,  
glorious Prince of Life ;  
life is naught without thee :  
aid us in our strife ;  
make us more than conquerors  
through thy deathless love ;  
bring us safe through Jordan  
to thy home above :

Edmond Budry (1854–1932)

*translated by Richard Birch Hoyle (1875–1939)*

## **BLESSING**

God the Father,  
by whose glory Christ was raised from the  
dead,  
strengthen us to walk with him in his risen life;  
and may almighty God bless us,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Alleluia!  
Go in joy and peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Alleluia!**

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