

Closing prayer

Great and glorious God,
you have rolled away the stone and raised Christ to life,
and now you invite us to share in the Good News.
Give us the courage to welcome the winds of change in our
lives
as it sweeps the pavements
and brings hope to hungry families, released prisoners,
sick and sad people of all ages.
In this season of Easter
run with us in the joy of new life
that transforms the way we see the world and one another.
For Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

—adapted from *Worship in the City: Prayers and Songs for Urban Settings*
by Nancy Elizabeth Hardy (UCPH, 2015)



Fleet & Beacon Hill

United Reformed Churches

Agape Breakfast

Virtual Worship

Sunday 12th April 2020

Conducted by Karen Smith

Happy Easter! It is a pleasure to welcome you to this Easter morning Agape Breakfast. You join me at the breakfast table in my home as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord in the unusual circumstances the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic has brought about.

Coming together to share a meal like this is built on early Christian tradition. The word *Agape* is a Greek term for love. Nowadays coming together like this sits well with the Holy Habits of eating together in fellowship, as we are told Jesus did on so many occasions in the Gospels. Please feel free to eat your breakfast and have a cuppa. But first, I will open with a grace to bless our food and time together.

Easter Grace

Prayers of Approach

Early in the morning
before chaos was awake,
you tiptoed quietly past,
Surprising God:
and whispered the Word
which caused grace and love
to blossom into creation.

Early in the morning
while the disciples slept,
Jesus, Son of the Living God:
you prepared a feast
to fill their emptiness;
you rolled away their hardened hearts
to open them to your grace;
you whispered their names
to awaken them to new life.

Early in the morning
while we are still drowsy,
you sing your songs to us,
Holy Spirit:
hymns of hope,
cantatas of compassion,
psalms of peace,
litanies of love.

God in Community, Holy in One,
Early this morning we bring our prayers to you, saying:

All: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Reading: Mark 16: 1 – 4 read by Mike Walters

Living **Psalm 118**—Easter Sunday

A few thoughts

We all have our own traditions around Easter—Easter egg hunts, family lunches, Easter flowers, and meaningful worship. This year, those traditions will not be the same, and yet, we believe that just like every Easter before, the sun will rise, and something will be different. This year, despite our physical distance, I invite you to carve out some sacred space in the comfort of your own home to recognize the holiness of this day.

May your morning be holy. May it be joyful. May it be a celebration. May it be whatever it is you need on this day. For even though we cannot be near one another at this time, God always draws near to us. Even in the wilderness, God is there. We may not be physically close to one another today, but we can still be in contact with one another. So on this Easter morning, you are invited to pass on the peace with your church family and loved ones by taking a moment later to text or call people and let them know you are thinking about them. Easter is a day of new beginnings and new life. It is a day for hope and love that overflows. It is a day of gratitude for the days we've had and the days to come. It is a day when we remember that love is stronger than hate, and death does not have the last word. Therefore, it only seems appropriate to take a moment to take some time to give thanks and appreciate all that is around us.

Listen to the birds chirping.

Savour the taste of the breakfast you have before you.

Appreciate your time of walking and exercise each day.

Take a moment to appreciate this new day, and as you do, think of some of the things you are grateful for & make them your own private prayer today. Cherish this holy morning, for each new day is a gift.