

Glastonbury Together in prayer

A news sheet for members of Glastonbury churches during the crisis caused by Covid 19



He is Risen, Alleluia He is risen indeed

Unlike the disciples at the time we know in advance that there will be joy at the risen Christ on Easter morning. We celebrate the Easter message every Sunday, but of course one of those Sundays has a greater significance to us. The link to the Passover gives us specific time to celebrate each year and it is a joyous time. In the northern hemisphere we are also coming into spring with new life in our gardens and in the fields and hedgerows. A commentary on Radio 4 suggested that it is the first Easter since the resurrection that we have not been able to gather to celebrate, but we can still celebrate in our own homes. We can celebrate together through the radio and television and through the internet. We can celebrate together through the power of prayer. Prayer and belief are the hallmarks that mark out Christians and at a time like the present we need them more than ever. Celebrate the risen Lord in prayer and you will be with your Church family spiritually even whilst bodily separate.

Singing the resurrection

Just before the lockdown David Pott was driving in Scotland and thought of Italians singing from their balconies. The idea then came to him that we can go into our gardens or open our windows and sing the resurrection. The idea is that we all sing together at 10:00 on Easter morning, wherever we are, using the hymns Jesus Christ is risen today and Thine be the glory. The initiative, which is said to be an Easter counter infection, is backed by Churches together in England and details can be found on their website at:

<https://ctbi.org.uk/sing-resurrection/>

If you are taking part in online worship at 10:00 and the hymns are not included please choose another time to join in. As well as the Churches together website you can find various recordings of the hymns on the internet if you wish to sing with accompaniment. A good website to find hymns is Hymnary.org. Some hymnbooks use a hymn with different lyrics - Christ the Lord is risen today, to the same music, if you are happier with those words you can join in with them as well.

A time of peace

A consequence of the current lockdown is a time of quiet in our lives with less movement bringing less noise and more chance to enjoy the natural sounds like birdsong. Whilst written in a different age we have in our hymnbooks the words of a Quaker poet that speak to our current situation. Words like "*Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways;*" speak to how we were before the crisis leading to our current situation a few verses later - "*Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease; take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace.*" Spring is a beautiful time, and the temptation to go out and enjoy it is strong, but accept the peace and quiet. Still your soul and pray together for everyone as the crisis progresses.



Easter a time of Hope

Greetings from our Church Communities

Easter 2020 from St John's and St Benedict's

This is an Easter like no other... Our churches are closed, our community in lock down with no short term outcome insight. We are used to coming together as a community and witnessing the first light on Easter Day and bringing it into our churches. It is almost as though the world is in a Holy Saturday, waiting for the joy of the resurrection but not quite sure when that will be but knowing that Jesus has left the cross. To mark this Easter I encourage all of us to light a candle and if you can safely, leave it to burn during the day as reminder that the light of Christ is amongst us and this light is being shared by Christians all over the world. This brings with it HOPE. Hope that shortly we will be once again a community. A new community a changed community that lights up out of this current darkness. Then we will know that Jesus has truly risen from the dead.

Happy Easter and stay safe.

God Bless, Rev David MacGeoch, Vicar

An Easter message from Glastonbury United Reformed Church.

For Christians, Easter is the most important date in our calendar. To have our churches closed this year would have seemed unimaginable just a few weeks ago, but that is the reality.

The time leading up to Easter Sunday is of course Lent, six weeks to prepare, reflect, on what both occurred so long ago and what still occurs in our hearts and lives each Easter.

To one degree or another all of us are experiencing periods of social isolation, alongside all those other projects you have decided to undertake, (reading that novel, writing that novel),

I pray that you will find time to sit quietly with God, to read the ancient words of wisdom in scripture and to prepare for a time of resurrection life when we can once more open the doors to our churches and celebrate,

May the blessing of God be with you all this Easter.

Rev. Tim Richards. United Reformed Church.

From the Monastic Community of Our Lady of Glastonbury

When Saul of Tarsus persecuted the early Christians, and when St Peter, our first Pope, was executed in Rome - we joyfully proclaimed the Resurrection of Christ.

When the Emperor Nero used our brothers and sisters as flaming torches, and when Diocletian rounded us up and killed us by many terrible means - we rejoiced that Our Saviour was Risen from the dead.

When revolutions and wars suppressed and murdered so many from among our number, and when our lands were stolen, our Churches desecrated, our holy objects polluted - we sang the praise of Him who death itself could not hold.

And when the plague, the Black Death, the illnesses of influenza, and maladies of any kind ravaged the world, we were not daunted, and we are not daunted - for we know the power of God over His creation.

And so it is that with joy, and with voices raised on high, that we praise the mighty God, who has come back from the dead so that we might have life, true life.

Alleluia!

Christ is Risen and is risen indeed!

Easter greetings from your sisters and brothers at Glastonbury Methodist Church.

How wonderful to proclaim these words, especially in the days we live in. For even though we may be apart, we are not adrift. A manger, cross and an empty tomb are witness and sign.

In all things an empty tomb is not only God's prayer to keep hope alive, but a fulfillment of it.

To all of you, wherever you are, may you know God's richest blessings, this day and always.

Christ is Risen and is Risen indeed! This is our joy and our hope.

Rev Tina Swire

Support your Church - Support your ministers

In these difficult times please remember your Church community and give them your support in whatever ways you can. If you normally support your Church by giving cash to the collection at services please consider setting up standing order or bank transfer at this time. Your Church will give you the details you need, If you already give by standing order can you increase the amount you give? With our support and our prayers we will all come out of the current crisis stronger than before. There are those in society who think, because we have big buildings, Churches are well off, nothing could be further from the truth and our financial and prayer support are needed as much as ever.