

Poole Bay Methodist Circuit worship Sunday 20th April 2025

Idle talk...or is it? - Led by Reverend Karen James

“But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.’”
(Luke 24:1-5 NRSV)

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Happy Easter! I am so glad to share in this time of worship for Easter Sunday. Let's continue with praises and joyful thanksgiving as we share in our first hymn.

Hymn: STF 298 - Christ the Lord is risen today

The music and words can also be found here: [YouTube Link](#)

Christ the Lord is risen today; Alleluia!
All creation joins to say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs; Alleluia!
Sing, you heavens; let earth reply: alleluia!

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

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!

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!

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)

Let us pray,

Christ is risen in quiet and mysterious darkness
before the chorus of the dawn.

Alleluia, Christ is Risen; He is risen indeed.

Risen with glory and grace,
and authority beyond measure.

Alleluia, Christ is risen; He is risen indeed.

Risen to prove that violence is no solution;
To offer us peace and life in all its fullness.

Alleluia, Christ is risen; He is risen indeed.

For freedom comes beyond the cross
For peace comes from beyond violence
For friendship comes beyond betrayal.
For life comes beyond death.

Alleluia, Christ is risen; He is risen indeed.

Amen

(David Coleman in Eggs and Ashes, 2004, edited by Ruth Burgess and Christopher Polehill)

Hymn: STF 297 - Christ is alive!

The music and words can also be found here: [YouTube Link](#)

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
His love in death shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now,
and conquer every place and time.

In every insult, rift and war,
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died...

Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus freed for all.

Christ is alive and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise. *(Brian Wren)*

Let us continue with the reading from Luke's gospel,

Luke 24:6-12

⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' ⁸Then they [the women] remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Easter 2025: Idle talk...or is it?

(adapted from my article in the Pivot magazine, Broadstone)

I love wordsearches; one of my favourite games was 'Boggle' (look it up!), it had words; it was competitive; and most times I would win- what was not to like! But mostly I love how words can be arranged to tell wonderful, insightful stories or convey information. Of course they can also be used to spread disinformation too.

Words have power; they can encourage and support, they can also bring destruction. They can incite people into action, and they can create barriers. Words can be used to welcome as well as dismiss. They can be thought-provoking, playful, directing, and inspiring.

The manner in which words are expressed, and who they are being expressed by, can determine the impact that they have for good or ill. We pay more attention to certain voices because of their perceived status, though we do not always give proper heed to the words they use.

Easter and the period leading up to it known as Lent, has its own terminology – repentance, wilderness, temptation, death and resurrection, new life, hope. At this time of year these ideas (words) can be seen all around us as we move from winter to spring, with flowers and buds emerging from the seemingly bare land and branches. The longer spells of sunshine that bring a positive feel to the world around us and within us. We use these to help ‘picture’ and explore the deeper meanings.

And it was with words that the women, who had followed Jesus from Galilee all the way to the tomb where Jesus had been placed, tried to convince the apostles that Jesus had risen- just as Jesus had told them all as they had travelled together during his ministry. It wasn't until the women had been reminded of this that they remembered the words spoken by Jesus, preparing them for this moment.

But how do you try to explain such an incredible turn of events, the stone rolled away, the tomb itself empty with only the grave clothes present until two men in dazzling clothes gently chided them- why are you looking for the living amongst the dead?

It is perhaps unsurprising that the apostles did not believe them, calling it idle or nonsense talk. And yet, something in the words that Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Mary mother of James and others shared, seemed to resonate with Peter. He did act. He went to the tomb and stooped down and looked in, and went home, amazed. Maybe at that point not fully convinced by what the women had to say but certainly beginning to ponder.

It is remarkable that such an event would first be shared by women, a group whose voice and words could be easily dismissed- nonsense, idle talk and yet even their words had an impact- small at first but enough to convince one person to go and see for themselves. And over two thousand years later we are listening to these words for ourselves, what impact will they have on us?

In a world where we have so many words, and so many dominating voices demanding our attention it is good to recall that sometimes, the seemingly idle talk- the easily dismissed words and voices, are important too.

As we celebrate the risen Christ may we be attentive to the words that are employed around us, respond to God's prompting and direction, even when it seems a perplexing thing to do. May we be constantly amazed by God, this day and every day. Amen

Hymn: STF 309 - See what a morning

The music and words can also be found here: [YouTube Link](#)

See, what a morning, gloriously bright,
with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
folded the graveclothes, tomb filled with light,
as the angels announce Christ is risen!
See God's salvation plan,
wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,
fulfilled in Christ, the Man,
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

See Mary weeping, 'Where is he laid?'
as in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;
hears a voice speaking, calling her name;
it's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!
The voice that spans the years,
speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,
will sound till he appears,
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty;
honour and blessing, glory and praise
to the King crowned with power and authority!
And we are raised with him,
death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered;
and we shall reign with him,
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

Stuart Townend (b. 1963) and Keith Getty (b. 1974)

Prayers for others

Let us offer our prayers with resurrection hope and expectation.

Risen God,

We pray that you will uphold all who are uncertain of what the future will bring. For those who strive to do their best regardless of the situation they are facing.

Lord, have mercy.

Upon the world's poor and unemployed, the homeless and refugee, the war torn and the oppressed and all those who are striving for peace and justice for all.

Christ have mercy.

Upon the sick and the suffering, the lonely and the dying- and all those who look after them. May God's peace and light will fill their lives.

Christ have mercy

In a moment of stillness we bring before you the people, places and situations that are on our hearts at this time...

Upon this church and ourselves- though we may be filled with fear and astonishment, we are still empowered to share this amazing news of the Risen Christ and God's love for all people.

Lord have mercy, Amen

Using the form or language with which you feel the most comfortable let us pray The Lord's Prayer

Our Father...

Hymn: STF 313 - Thine be the glory

The music and words can also be found here: [YouTube Link](#)

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.*

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:

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)

Easter Affirmation & Blessing

This is the Good News-

The grave is empty,

Christ is risen

Hallelujah!

This is the Good News-

The light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness can never put it out.

Hallelujah!

Christ is our peace,
the indestructible peace
we now share with each other.

We go with the blessing of God, life-giver, the Risen Christ, hope-bringer and the Holy Spirit, life- enhancer to share this news.

Alleluia Christ is Risen- He is risen indeed! Alleluia.

Amen

Peace and light to you. Take care

Rev Karen