

twelvebaskets

FREE TO DUPLICATE AND DISTRIBUTE



EASTER 2C

24th April 2022

A short act of worship and daily devotions

A Free resource funded by donations from Individuals, churches and **twelvebaskets**.

If you would like to help fund this resources [click here](#).

For more information <https://theworshipcloud.com/terms/free-weekly-resource>

Opening Prayers

As I come to worship you,

I sit for a moment,

Taking the time to rest,

To let the chair take the weight of my body,

Offering to you all that I am physically.

I look for a moment.

Taking the time to drink in my surroundings

To cast my eye on all the things that matter to me in my life,

Offering all that I see for your attention.

I listen for a moment,

Taking the time to notice the sounds of my world

To drink in the noises and silence that surround me,

Offering all that I hear – around me or within me - to your safe keeping.

I wait for a moment,

Wondering what will happen as I worship today

Expecting to encounter all that you are,

With all that I am.

I come to worship you.

I come to worship you.

I come to worship you.

Amen.¹

You may wish to say the Lord's prayer in whatever language or tradition you are most comfortable with.

Hymn:

94 STF – To God be the glory, great things he has done! - [YouTube](#)

Reading: John 20:19-31 – [Click for reading](#)

¹ Opening prayers written by Jane Bingham

Response to the reading

The truth that Thomas encounters is the same truth we must preach and live and share so that God's grace can continue and be at work in the world around us. What are we waiting for?

Belief is not a tick-box exercise. It's not just about 'mental assent' as Tom Wright puts it. Belief is transformative – it changes everything. Perhaps we hover on the edge of belief, like Thomas, because changing everything sounds scary. What do we stand to lose? What might we be asked to give up? Are we willing to make the sacrifice?

If we are 'Easter people', a people of the resurrection', followers of Jesus, Christians – then that isn't just about what we say when the census comes round, or what we happen to do on Sunday mornings. It is about our whole lives, it is about committing ourselves to discipleship.

It isn't easy – as the disciples learned in that frightened locked room, and as Thomas knew when he felt it was easier to deny and turn aside – but it is thoroughly rewarding and life-giving – as Thomas learned when he declared Jesus his Lord just a few days later.

Where are you this week – can you declare, with Thomas, that Jesus is Lord, and allow that to change and transform you from the inside out? Will you keep the light alive this week? Will you bring, be and practice good news? Will you champion new life and practice resurrection?

If you do, you are following Jesus' invitation. You are a child of the resurrection.

Blessing

Step into the light and life of God,
May his life be in your heart,
May his light be in your eyes
and may life and light go from you to others.
Amen.²

Prayers and Prayer Pointers for the Week

Monday 25th April

- Take a moment to look at your hands. Reflect on the things you have used them for already this week: to do housework, to write emails, to make phone calls, perhaps some digging in the garden or some manual labour tasks.
- Thank you God, for these hands. Help me to use them as your hands in the world – to use my body, my mind, my whole life, for the building of your Kingdom here on earth.
Amen.

² Additional prayers by Phil Jackson

Tuesday 26th April

- Today, why not take up the mantra: 'Here I am, send me.'
- Your prayer activity for today is to try to say those 5 words – aloud or in your head – as many times as you can during the day. Say them as a prayer. Say them as an invitation. Say them as a way of stilling your busy brain to focus on God's still, small voice.
- Here I am. Send me.

Wednesday 27th April

- When you have chance today, head outside and look at the sky (ideally not when it's pouring with rain!). Take note of the clouds, of the speed they are moving, of the light the sun is casting, perhaps you can see the moon or some stars if it is after sunset.
- Under the vastness of the open sky, reflect on how far away the clouds are, and how much further the sun and the stars are...
- As you look at the huge expanse of the horizon, think about how much bigger our Creator is, how the God we worship knows each one of us and yet is also holding the whole universe together.
- You may wish to give thanks for the amazing universe you get to be a part of.

Thursday 28th April

- God is everywhere, if only you could be still enough to notice.
- Today, your challenge is to notice.
- Look for God in the sunrise, the birdsong, the taste of pizza, the comfort of your sofa, the embrace of a loved one, a text message that makes you smile...whatever it is.
- Notice.

Friday 29th April

- What will the world look like 10 years from now, or 100, or 1,000?
- It is hard to imagine, isn't it?
- Pray into the uncertainty today – the uncertainty of the future, the 'not knowing' of stepping out into a week when we don't know what will happen or what this day will bring.
- Amongst the uncertainty, look to the certainty of the living God, the God who was and is, and is to come.
- Help me root myself in you, O God.

Saturday 30th April

- Holy God, you have called me here, in this moment, this day, this weekend.
Lord of life, I see you at work in the world around me.
Open my eyes, and open my heart,
That I may be ready to receive your Spirit into my life.
Amen.