

**Sunday April 11<sup>th</sup> 2021:** Second Sunday of Easter

*For use at 10.30 am or at another time.*



**Hymn StF 314 H&P 213**

This joyful Eastertide, what need is there for grieving?

Cast all your cares aside and be not unbelieving:

*come, share our Easter joy that death could not imprison,  
nor any power destroy, our Christ, who is arisen!*

No work for him is vain, no faith in him mistaken,

for Easter makes it plain his kingdom is not shaken: *Come, share our Easter joy...*

Then put your trust in Christ, in waking or in sleeping.

His grace on earth sufficed; he'll never quit his keeping: *Come, share our Easter joy...*

Fred Pratt Green (1903 – 2000) CCL nos. 5365402 (circuit); 168415, 495683, 102550, 962013 (churches)

**Prayer**

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.**

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

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**Psalm set for today:** Psalm 133

**Gospel Reading set for today:** John 20 v 19 – 31

**To think about**

Put yourself in the place of Thomas. What do you think he thought and felt like after the first Easter Sunday evening? What must he have thought and felt a week later?

**Hymn StF 303 H&P 196**

I know that my Redeemer lives – / what joy the blest assurance gives!

He lives, he lives, who once was dead / he lives, my everlasting Head!

He lives, to bless me with his love / he lives to plead for me above;

He lives my hungry soul to feed / he lives to help in time of need.

He lives, and grants me daily breath / he lives, and I shall conquer death;

He lives, my mansion to prepare / he lives, to lead me safely there.

He lives, all glory to his name / he lives, my Saviour, still the same;

What joy the blest assurance gives / I know that my Redeemer lives!

Samuel Medley (1738 – 1799)

## **Message from a Circuit friend**

“Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind who have no hope” 1 Thes. 4.13

My precious wife died in 2011, after our 60 wonderful years together. No-one could have wished for a better wife: kind, faithful, loving; a wonderful Mother, Grandma; diligent in care for us all and with this, so genuinely humble. If anyone should have been utterly broken and distressed at her passing, it should surely be me; but I wasn't! Why? The reason for this extraordinary absence of mourning was that I was so overwhelmed with the reasons for **thanksgiving**. I was thankful that my dear wife died at home; for the many hours I sat at her bedside, in the final days; That she kept telling me how much she loved me; Perhaps, - most of all that my darling is now at rest, released from this dreadful world.

Through all this, I learned something new: The **POWER OF THANKSGIVING**. It is impossible to feel thankful and, at the same time, entertain any negative feelings. You can't feel disappointed, sad, resentful, angry, frustrated, envious, etc, while you are feeling thankful. Perhaps that is why our gracious God so frequently calls for thankfulness from his people. “Offer unto God thanksgiving” Psalm 50.14.

I long to share these insights given to me, that others may be blessed by them too, - perhaps someone reading this now. “Therefore encourage one another with these words” 1 Thes. 4.18.

**John Forsdyke (Member of Cowper Congregational Church in Dereham but also attendee at Garvestone Methodist Church and preacher on our Circuit plan)**

## **For Prayer**

We pray for country as restrictions ease still further this week, and as people get together again with family and friends.

We pray for all Christians still celebrating the season of Easter and still seeking to allow the power of the risen Jesus to transform their everyday lives.

We pray for our world, our country, the Methodist Church, our Circuit, our local church and fellowship, our community, our family and friends, ourselves.

**Offer to God your offertory for the week, and say the Lord's Prayer...**

## **Hymn StF 312 H&P 209**

The head that once was crowned with thorns / is crowned with glory now;  
a royal diadem adorns / the mighty victor's brow.

The highest place that heaven affords / is his, is his by right,  
the King of kings and Lord of lords / and heaven's eternal light.

The joy of all who dwell above / the joy of all below  
to whom he manifests his love / and grants his name to know.

The cross he bore is life and health / though shame and death to him;  
his people's hope, his people's wealth / their everlasting theme.

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**May the blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us, and all those we love, this day and always, Amen.**

Several people built up a display in a box or basket during Lent – placing a different symbol each week. Here is one example on Good Friday, on Easter Saturday, and on Easter Day:

