



Worship Resources for Sunday April 26th

Easter Week Three, Liturgical Year A

We encourage you to read and reflect on these scriptures, songs, notes, and prayers as we look forward to our time of worship together this coming Sunday. You may access a PDF copy of this guide from our website, <https://emmausroadfc.org/worship-resource-20200426/>.

Please print this guide or have it handy in digital format for use during the service.

And don't forget to join us Sunday immediately following the service in our virtual foyer for a group video chat! <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/202653556>

SERMON SCRIPTURE

In the days leading up to our Sunday gathering, please read through the sermon scripture as the Holy Spirit prepares your heart for the sermon inspired by this passage.

[John 21:1-19 \(NRSV\)](#)

MUSIC

The music selections this week were two songs scheduled to be introduced for our corporate worship gathering during the Easter season. While I miss singing these songs together with you, may they still be a blessing to you in the weeks to come.

Bright As The Sun

Written by Joel Houston

Performed by Hillsong United

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/B8l-MmjK6cQ>

Apple Music: shorturl.at/blq46

Spotify: shorturl.at/IPY36

O how sweet did You gaze
On my perilous heart
To befriend me to my bitter end
And carry the burden
For as graven my failure
You prevailed in pure love
To be found in the depths of Your heart
As good as forgiven

For The Beauty of the Earth

Written by Folliott Sandford Pierpoint,

Jonathan Willcocks

Performed by The Lower Lights

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/ziBo8Achcgw>

Apple Music: shorturl.at/mqGOR

Spotify: shorturl.at/demt0

For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

O how You graced that cross
Where Jesus died and death took the loss
Wild as the floodgates of heaven
Flung wide open within His scars
Now mine is the life You raised
Yours the glory that took down that grave
Bright as the sun almighty in love
God forever Your Kingdom come

O how sweet is the sound
Of a heart drenched in grace
Rising up from the ashes in praise
Alive to Your greatness
Hope as brazen as mercy
Through the terrible night
How You blaze through the darkness I fight
Bright as the morning

My heart burns wild in my chest
In awe of Your heart in all that You are
Let Your praise run wild on my breath
In awe of Your heart I'll sing it again
Till my heart beats out of my chest
I'll sing of Your love in awe of Your heart
Till Your praise is all I have left
I'll sing of Your love again and again

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flower
Sun and moon and stars of light
Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

For the joy of human love
Brother sister parent child
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild
Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bold lines to be read aloud corporately.

We enter a virtual gathering space once again this season.

We worship together in spirit and in truth, though not in person.

We pray, sing, and listen to God's Word despite the uncertainty that pervades our community.

We trust Christ's peace, a peace given freely, despite our doubts and fears.

We know the Holy Spirit is among us, blowing with a hopeful wind of change.

We feel the presence of Christ, the one who died and rose again, and brings us eternal life.

We submit to God's leading in this time of transformation.

We experience the joy of Easter morning when we celebrate all God has in store for us.

(By Rev. Dr. Libby Grammar)

CONFESSIONAL PRAYER

Bold lines to be read aloud corporately.

Holy God, we confess that we do not trust You fully. We put our hope in worldly gain and in human promises, and find ourselves defeated and lost when things fall apart. You have given us a love more fully than anything we could experience in this world but we do not seek it, we do not hold on to it, and we look to our own means of assurance and security.

Forgive us.

Call us back to You that we may put our trust in You and not be afraid.

May we quiet our own uncertainty and concerns, seeing you as our constant companion on the journey. May we see you fully revealed in our midst as our risen saviour.

(Inspired by Luke 24:13-35)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

You are God's Beloved; with you, God is well pleased. You are renewed and restored. You are forgiven and loved. You are a new creation in Christ, everything old has passed away; see, everything is becoming new. (Inspired by 2 Corinthians 5:17)

All: Thanks be to God

SERMON NOTES

Sermon notes may be downloaded in PDF format from our website shorturl.at/dfkG5

The Uprising Of Discipleship

[John 21:1-19 \(NRSV\)](#)

DO YOU LOVE ME?

Peter fell apart the night Jesus was arrested. When armed guards arrived in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter panicked, grab his sword and cut off a man's ear. Jesus showed compassion for the injured man and healed the man's wound. Jesus showed compassion for Peter by reminding him that those who live by the sword will die by the sword.

Later that night, Peter was asked three times if he knew Jesus or was associated with his movement. Three times Peter denied knowing Jesus.

For the attentive reader, the conversation recorded in John 21 is meant to remind us of those events just a few days earlier.

Three times Peter had denied Jesus, then three times Peter had an opportunity to confess his love for Jesus and receive forgiveness.

Jesus didn't just offer Peter forgiveness, he invited him to participate in his work.

In the same way that a long night of fishing disappears with a big catch, Peter's past failures had vanished with the forgiveness of Christ and the invitation to participate in his work.

In the uprising of Jesus, we aren't defined by our past, we are offered the simple invitation to "Follow him."

FOLLOW ME

The invitation to “follow me” is always caught up in the present. No matter what has taken place in the past, we can heed the instruction to follow him at this moment.

In this way, “Follow me” captures the essence of discipleship! Disciple means follower, student, learner, or one who imitates the teacher. For the uprising of Jesus to endure, we need to follow the ways of Jesus and invite others to do the same by way of example.

My encouragement to each of us is to not stop at confession of our love for Jesus, but to answer the invitation of Jesus to be his disciple. To be learners, followers, apprentices. Even when it isn't easy. Even when the ways of Jesus seem to conflict with the ways of nation.

In this journey of following Jesus we must be willing to give ourselves grace. Perhaps Jesus picked a group of fisherman to be his first disciples because they knew what it was like to fail and keep trying. They had experienced long nights with no catch and were willing to go back the next night to try again. This is what the life of faith is like. It isn't just all easy growth in faith with clear answers to our deepest questions. There are seasons of doubt with no clear answers. There are seasons of hard work for the kingdom of God with no clear results. But those fisherman kept mentoring others in the way of Jesus, kept proclaiming the good news of Jesus, kept doing their best to serve as examples of what it's like to follow him. And here we are centuries later, gathered through an internet broadcast proclaiming the good news of Jesus.

May this uprising centered on Jesus be one of fellowship that welcomes all people. And may it also be an uprising of discipleship where we stumble along the road of following Jesus.

COMMUNION

Prepare the elements of “bread” and “wine” for use as we gather around The Lord's Table. These can be any items convenient around the home that symbolize these for you.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Leader: In unity with the Church throughout the ages, we confess our faith:

**All: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins

as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
and deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory for ever and ever.
Amen.

BENEDICTION

Go now as those who have met with Christ in the morning of this day.
Go now as those whose hearts have burned within them, as the Scriptures were explained.
Go now as those who have been touched by resurrection.
And may the blessing of God
be upon you, body, mind and spirit,
as you leave this place,
Amen.

(Written by Ann Siddall)