

*Christ Church New
Southgate & Friern Barnet*

Easter Day 2022

Welcome

Christ is risen!
Alleluia!

The Lord is risen!
He is risen indeed!

Song: Christ the Lord is risen today

Prayer

Risen Lord,
in the stillness and wonder of this moment,
we hardly dare to believe that you are indeed
alive!
Yet our hearts are filling with faith, hope and
love,
and our souls are beginning to believe!
Wonderful Lord, we fall on our knees with
thanksgiving.
Amen.

Song: O happy day

Ola's 70th Birthday Blessing

On your birthday, remember that you were
wonderfully made by God and rejoice in his
love. You are so blessed to be you and to
share the amazing love of Jesus on your
birthday! **May God bless this day with
more love than your heart can hold.**

Video: Super cool Jesus, Bible Society

Reading: Luke 24.1-12

24 Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, carrying the spices they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the entrance to the tomb, ³so they went in; but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴They stood there puzzled about this, when suddenly two men in bright shining clothes stood by them. ⁵Full of fear, the women bowed down to the ground, as the men said to them, "Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? ⁶He is not here; he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was in Galilee: ⁷"The Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and three days later rise to life."

⁸Then the women remembered his words, ⁹returned from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven disciples and all the rest. ¹⁰The women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James; they and the other women with them told these things to the apostles. ¹¹But the apostles thought that what the women said was nonsense, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; he bent down and saw the grave cloths but nothing else. Then he went back home amazed at what had happened.^[a]

All age reading

Mary and Mary, up at first light, came to the tomb and had such a fright (*tap single tiptoe-like notes on a xylophone or a triangle*).

On the first Easter Day, the stone rolled away.

After an earthquake and lightning flash, Mary and Mary heard a great crash (*bang cymbals and drums or tables*).

On the first Easter Day, the stone rolled away.

Mary and Mary were amazed by the sight of an angel sat on a stone, dressed in white (*use muffled clappers or pieces of card flapped in the air*).
On the first Easter Day, the stone rolled away.

'Don't be afraid,' the angel then said.
'Jesus is raised. He's no longer dead' (*gently shake maracas or rice in sealed yogurt pots*).
On the first Easter Day, the stone rolled away.

Mary and Mary, tell all his friends that Jesus is Lord and life never ends (*clap and cheer*).
On the first Easter Day, the stone rolled away.

Mary and Mary ran from the tomb to tell the rest in the upper room (*run on the spot*).
On the first Easter Day, the stone rolled away.

But Jesus appeared and said, 'Do not fear. Tell everyone now – I'll always be near' (*make celebration noises, and play all the instruments*).
On the first Easter Day, the stone rolled away.

Song: Resurrection song

Prayer
We are sorry, Lord, for the times when we stay in the tomb of our lack of belief and fill it with our fear.
Forgive us, and release us to be your witnesses in your world today.

We are sorry for the times we are sceptical when others share the power of the Resurrection in their lives.
Forgive us, and release us to be your witnesses in your world today.

We are sorry for the times when we live as if there were no Easter.
Forgive us, and release us to be your

**witnesses in your world today.
Amen.**

Sermon: The stone rolled away

As we walked along together, trying really trying to be quiet, I could hear some of our group whispering at the back 'but what about the stone?' and 'how will we move that massive stone?' The stone was at the entrance to the tomb. The tomb was a brand new tomb, never been used before. It was some posh bloke's tomb – Joseph, he was a member of the council and minted. Most ordinary folk are buried in big tombs carved out of rock with little shelves for all the bodies, then after a year the remains are put in an ossuary – a fancy jar and stored somewhere safe. The tomb is then used again. But Jesus' tomb was different – new and not for general use, and certainly not for someone who had been charged as a criminal and executed. This tomb was different, freshly carved out of the rock with some little steps into the tomb. It was big enough to stand up in.

We knew exactly where to go because we'd been there just before the sabbath. We'd been with him the whole time. One by one all the blokes sculked off, but we stayed. We couldn't do anything about him being crucified but we could at least make sure he didn't die alone. We stood at a distance because the guards don't let you get any nearer. Then we made sure he was buried along with Joseph – who despite being posh is really a very good man. And we watched as they put his body in the tomb, just minutes before sundown. Normally we'd have anointed a body with spices and then the tomb would have been sealed up but it was nearly sabbath so we couldn't.

We came back as soon as we could. We left our children sleeping, and our families getting

their own breakfast for once. We came back because we had devoted our lives to Jesus, and he to us. He had taught us, shaped us and led us. He believed in us and had transformed our lives. He'd told us about the kingdom of God being at hand. We'd seen him do so many miracles, healings. We'd called him our king as he came into the city just last weekend. So the least we could do was to make sure he was buried right.

In truth, I was worried about the stone. It had taken quite a few men to put in place. Plan 1 was for all of us women, us 3 and all the others to give it a go. I figured if we could get a wooden stick under it, it might start to roll. Or failing that, we'd decided to send the prettiest of us to ask the local guards to help.

When we arrived, our stomachs fell to the floor. We had been worried about the stone, we'd been worried we weren't strong enough to move it, but actually a whole different fear took over us : the stone had rolled away. We didn't see what we had left, we saw nothing. Just a big dark, dusty empty tomb, just his linen clothes left. I felt sick. Where was the body? Terrible thoughts flashed across my mind: has someone stolen it? Has someone meddled with him? What kind of sick person would do this? And just as my fear, turned to anger, two strange man all in white told us : do not fear. He is not here, he has risen.

Jesus hadn't let a stone come between us. The stone had rolled away.

Where we had seen an obstacle, a massive rock as something to be forced away, something that we would try to move any means possible, that stone had rolled away. No longer was there any barrier between us and Jesus. No longer was there anything stopping Jesus from coming out of that tomb, no longer was the world the same. For he had removed every barrier for us to follow him. He called us, he welcomed us, he put us in

charge of big parts of his mission, he trusted us when so many didn't. He didn't say you can't because you're single, he didn't say you can't because you've got family, he didn't say you can't because you look different, he said: come follow me.

He trusted us with his teaching, and those angels – I'm sure they were angels – trusted us with the truth : Jesus is risen. We weren't just passing a message on, that message was for us, those who had been with him the whole way even to that terrible tomb.

When he turned water into wine we were impressed, when he made a picnic for 2 stretch to feed 5000 we were amazed, but now we knew that he was lord of all the earth, able to live, die and rise again in God's power. And no stone could stop him, for the stone rolled away. The stone rolled away and let us discover that Jesus was not dead. The stone rolled away and let the Lord of light back into the world to meet us. The stone rolled away and every obstacle I ever thought was impossible was gone. The grave could not hold him, nor any power of hell, but God's great love for us rolled the stone away.

Prayer: When we are despairing
When the world is full of grief
When we see no way ahead
And hope has gone away

Roll back the stone

Although we fear change
Although we are not ready
Although we'd rather weep
And run away

Roll back the stone

Because we're coming with the women
Because we hope where hope is in vain
Because you call us from the grave
And show the way

Roll back the stone

Baptism – Fiona Mukasa

Song: Grace

Prayers for the world by Mary Adjei

Song: Thine be the glory

Blessing