

Prayers and Readings for April 2021

If you wish to join in with our telephone worship, please call **0333 011 0616**, then enter the access code, **286 7552** followed by # (not £ as the lady says!). You will be asked to say your name and enter # and, in a moment or two you will be connected. Please dial in before 11am

4 April: Isaiah 25:6-9 • Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 • Acts 10:34-43 • Mark 16:1-8 Easter Day

11 April: Acts 4:32-35 • Psalm 133 • 1 John 1:1-2:2 • John 20:19-31

18 April: Acts 3:12-19 • Psalm 4 • 1 John 3:1-7 • Luke 24:36b-48

25 April: Acts 4:5-12 • Psalm 23 • 1 John 3:16-24 • John 10:11-18

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1. Call to worship: Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living One; I died, and behold I am alive for evermore... Revelation 1:17-18.

2. Prayer: Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty, and restore all things in glory through the victory of Jesus Christ. We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed, the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love, and peace, to the glory of your name, we pray through Jesus Christ, our Risen Saviour, **Amen**

3. First Reading

4. Prayer: (Adoration) From the high excitement and marvel of Easter, we humbly approach You and worship You now, in this Easter season. Death could not contain nor hold down Jesus Christ. So this Sunday, and indeed every moment of every day, we offer You thanks for Christ's risen presence. What was true that first Easter Sunday, had started, for some, to sink in. The possibilities for ongoing life beginning to form. You are the God of Peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of an eternal covenant, make us perfect in goodness so that we may do Your will; and create in us what is pleasing to You. We come before you in the name of Jesus, **Amen**.

5. Second Reading

6. Prayer: (Confession) As Your children, Loving Creator, we are given a place within Your heart. You know our inner workings and are able to name what is right and wrong in the lives we lead. As Your children, we recognise the upset and hurt we cause to those we love the most, with the harsh words we use and our selfish ambition to live as we would choose. As Your children, we are invited to share in the stewardship of creation, and sometimes we fail to care. Tempted by easy to use and readily available, we ignore the need to sustain all of life. We fail to live in harmony with more than humanity.

As children of God, we are known by You, and long for your presence to turn us around with forgiveness and place our feet upon Christ's path of holiness and love. Lord Christ have mercy on us. **Amen**.

7. Third Reading

8. Prayer: (Thanksgiving) Our mouths are full of songs of praise, Lord of life, for You meet our every need. Our hunger is fed. Our thirst is quenched. Your indwelling in the whole of life inspires our thoughts and encourages the gifts within each of us to be used for the glory of Your kingdom. Your risen presence provides the sustenance our inner spirits crave. We meet You in the relationships we form, as You call our hidden skills and talents to the fore so that they speak of You and Your love for all creation. In all we do, may we reveal Your presence as we discover old and new ways of being Christ's people, through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen**

9. Fourth Reading

10. Prayer: (Intercession) Pray for those things that come to you from the bible readings. Pray for the world situation, your own community and family and friends. Pray for those that are suffering and those that work tirelessly to help others. Pray for our governments and leaders. Pray for your church and fellowships. Remember those that are unwell.

11. Lord's Prayer

12. Closing Prayer: Go forth in peace, for you have followed the good road. Go forth without fear, for God who created You has made you holy, has always protected you, and given you the Holy Spirit to continue with you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen**

13. Grace: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen