

Quiet Time Service

14th April 2021

Good Evening and a very warm welcome to our Quiet Time service coming from Giffnock Orchardhill Parish Church in Glasgow. Whether you are joining us live through “Zoom” or listening on the podcast you are most welcome.

We may not all be gathered in the same building, but we are invited to worship together, from where we are – knowing that God can hear us all and can blend even distant voices into one song of worship.

This week as we continue to reflect on the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us Pray

Stepping into the turmoil of life,

You bring peace,

Risen presence.

Your calm voice chases away the darkness and distress
of doubt and fear,

bringing new light and insight
to life and death.

In an upper room,

You make the extraordinary experience of resurrection
an everyday encounter,

and in the passage of all living things
through birth, growth and death,

we notice the possibility of new beginnings.

Your words of peace still our hurry.
Your story is to be savoured,
to fill imaginations,
to dream of what is possible.
In the peace Your passion for creation is revealed,
as Your love heals the division humanity creates
between one another,
amidst the world around,
between heaven and earth.
With Your woundedness
we are made whole,
and prepared to be the witnesses
of Christ's continuing purpose in our time.
Amen.

**This evening's Scripture reading is taken from the
Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 24, reading from
verses 36 to 49**

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

³⁶ While they (the Disciples) were still talking about this (the events on the road to Emmaus), Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands

and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴ He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

We can now reflect as we listen to Were You There (When They Crucified My Lord) an American spiritual likely composed by enslaved African-Americans in the 19th Century. It was first published in 1899 in William E. Barton’s ‘Old Plantation Hymns’. It has been recorded by

many artists, including Paul Robeson, and the *a capella* rendition you are about to hear is by the group Pegasus

**We now join together in our prayers for our world,
community and ourselves:**

Let us pray.

Almighty God,

At this time we rejoice in the glory of resurrection.

The tomb is empty.

Death could not hold the Lord Jesus. His body saw no decay. His enemies did not win. The earth could not contain him.

We are emboldened by the power of resurrection.

We are encouraged by the hope of resurrection.

We are enlightened by the truth of resurrection.

So help us, dear God, to have a daily expectation that we will encounter the living Lord Jesus wherever we live.

Help us to live in submission and empower us to bring this message of resurrection into every dark and desperate corner of this world.

Lord, strengthen us in our faltering steps to follow your Son's example, by loving our neighbours, putting others first and striving to help and encourage rather than to criticise and condemn.

Lord, we pray for the families of those who have passed away in recent times and in particular for the Queen and

the members of the Royal Family following the death of the Duke of Edinburgh. We also ask that you hold closely all whose health is compromised by the coronavirus or other health issues and their families and friends, and in the silence we bring before you those known to us.

Loving God, we also commend to you those who suffer from the economic impact of the virus, who have lost their business or livelihood, many of whom were in travel, manufacturing, hospitality, among other industries. We thank you for the dedication of health care workers and the many other public servants who have worked tirelessly during the last year to battle the pandemic and help others, often putting themselves in harm's way for us.

We pray for wisdom to guide World leaders in these challenging times so that they act with compassion for those over whom they have power. Loving Lord let us not stand aside and tolerate lack of basic human resources, dehumanising practices, or the use of violence to disempower your people. Give us strength to act and challenge practices based on hatred, intolerance or self interest which cause misery to millions, and instead bring your justice and mercy.

God of compassion, we pray for the people of this country and the wider United Kingdom during these difficult days. Instil in our leaders and those advising them wisdom and continuing strength to guide us out of

the grip of the coronavirus. Lord we ask that you strengthen us in our compliance with the measures put in place to limit the spread of the virus and in our understanding of the need for our freedoms to continue to be restricted so that lives can be saved and our Health Service enabled to cope with the numbers infected.

Lord God, we ask you to bless this congregation of your people; our Probationer, Gillian; our Interim Moderator, John; our Youth Worker, Lorna, all office bearers and the many who devote substantial time and effort, often unseen, to the smooth running of this Church and the support of all those connected with it.

In the name of the resurrected Jesus,
Amen.

Our final reading is a simple but meaningful poem for Easter, by Joanna Fuchs

Easter Joy

Jesus came to earth,
To show us how to live,
How to put others first,
How to love and how to give.
Then He set about His work,
That God sent Him to do;

He took our punishment on Himself;
He made us clean and new.
He could have saved Himself,
Calling angels from above,
But He chose to pay our price for sin;
He paid it out of love.
Our Lord died on Good Friday,
But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
That fills our hearts with joy.
Now we know our earthly death,
Like His is just a rest.
We'll be forever with Him
In heaven, where life is best.
So we live our lives for Jesus,
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Saviour; Thank you, Lord.
Help us love like you!
By Joanna Fuchs

Let us come together to say 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 today our daily bread. Forgive us our
sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from
the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the
kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen

A Gaelic Blessing, composed by John Rutter.

Deep peace of the running wave to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the gentle night to you.

Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.

Deep peace of Christ,

of Christ the light of the world to you.

Deep peace of Christ to you. **Amen**