

WHAT EASTER MEANS TO ME

A Service for the Second Sunday of Easter

As always use this service in a way that works best for you, grab a cup of tea and sit in a quiet corner, get on the phone, pick someone in the house to lead or share the parts out or even read through it during the week. Whether you are in your Sunday best or haven't got out of your PJ's, we hope this act of worship will bless you for the week ahead.

Thank you to John Logan for putting the service together, for everyone who sent in their recordings, prayers and hymn choices. It is amazing to be able to worship together in this way while we are unable to meet in person!

1 Opening Prayer

As Jesus came into the room, he spoke saying 'Peace be with you'. Lord speak to us with words of peace.

Amen



2

Hymn

Singing the Faith 272 - From heaven you came
Chosen by Lyneth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCAwS-ZyEk>



3 Prayers of Praise and Adoration

As people of the resurrection we look out and wonder at your marvellous ways:
We thank you for the signs of your work around us.

We thank you for the joy of new life, for the trees and plants coming into bloom and all we see of your goodness.

We thank you for the people who work hard to ensure we have all we need to survive and thrive, for the people who ensure food is plentiful, shop workers, farmers, food producers, delivery people and everyone involved in the provision of food

We thank you for those who care for us in whatever way they can. We give thanks for all the health professionals and care workers and for their dedication which so often goes the extra mile to ensure we are safe.

We thank you for each other. For the wonder of human relationships, for families who are spending more time together, for friendships kindled through phone calls, emails, social media and so many other ways.

Most of all Lord, we thank you that your miraculous resurrection leads us to an eternal hope in an everlasting God.

Amen



Song Ring Out the Bells (We're Coming Alive)

5

<https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/sermons/what-easter-means-for-me-worship-at-home/>

*Ring out the bells at Easter time!
Tell all the world that He's alive!
Sing out the story far and wide,
Shout it from the rooftops,
Jesus is alive!
(Repeat)*

I Now the power of death is broken,
The grave is left behind,
The darkness has been overcome
By love that cannot die.
Heaven's doors are flung wide open
To everlasting light,
The kingdom of our God has come
With power and resurrection!

Chorus

Deeper than eternal oceans
And stronger than a flood,
The fountain of His endless love
Is now poured out on us.
Here we stand, our hearts wide open
To His eternal life,
The kingdom of our God has come
With power and resurrection!

Chorus

4 The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

6

DAWN'S CHORUS

A Story by John Logan

Dawn had a beautiful voice. She was known for it. Of all the birds in the field, Dawn was known not just for her melodic singing, but also for her amazing range of notes. Dawn was a Song Thrush. Dawn could sing high notes and very low notes and every note in between. In fact, it was thought that Dawn could sing several notes at once, in perfect harmony! She became a legend and birds travelled from miles away just to hear Dawn's incredible voice.



Croak!

Squeeeek!

BELCH!



That was until this week, of course! Dawn had woken at the beginning of the week with the worst sore throat in the whole of birddom! Her voice could either come out beautifully, or as a croak, or worse than that, with most horrendous squeaks, belches and whistles!

The day began just as the sun had risen, the bird chorus began, nervously, to sing their parts. First up was Billy and Betty Blackbird with their wonderful wake up trumpet call. Gradually the other birds joined in, Ruby Robin, Jenny Wren, Oscar Owl, Charlie Chaffinch, Gerty Greenfinch and so on - all added to the amazing sound, until it came to Dawn's turn.



Everyone waited with anticipation....

Dawn took a deep breath....'come on girl, you know you can do it' Dawn thought to herself. So she held her head up high, took in a deep breath and started...

First there was the squeak and then most horrendous noise you have ever heard! It was so bad that all the other birds stopped singing and covered their ears with their wings to try to cover up the noise. In the end it was Oscar Owl who screeched to Dawn, 'stop, stop at once, I say, STOP!'. Dawn's voice crumpled. Ruby Robin, shouted at Dawn, in a very unkind way, such as robins can do 'What on earth do you think you are doing Dawn! This is terrible, so terrible!'. Dawn's beak dropped.

STOP!

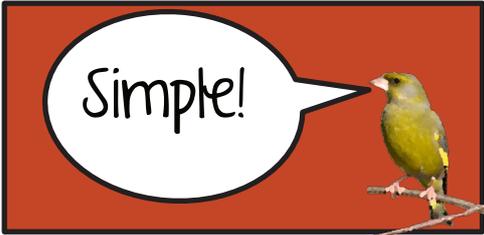


Dawn's beak dropped.



Oscar Owl immediately convened the bird council to discuss what could be done to end this crisis. They all agreed that this cannot continue. 'Our reputation will be ruined', said Jenny Wren. No one will want to listen to our choir if we don't do something. Dawn agreed. She was very sad and disappointed, but accepted that she could no longer sing, at least until her voice recovered.

So that evening they met for a rehearsal. Charlie Chaffinch started off, 'we're all done for, done for, done for...' He said shaking his head vigorously from left to right. And he began to cry. The others seemed equally despondent. After a while Gerty Greenfinch jumped in in her very excited way 'You know darlings, I have an idea!' she said.

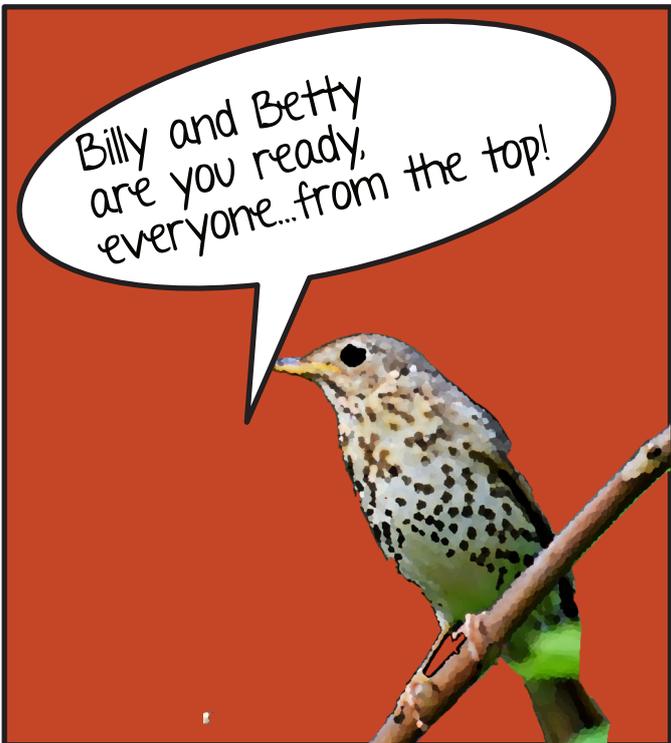


She explained further, "Oscar sweetie, you can sing all those low notes and Jenny you can get the high notes, and lots of us can do the middle notes, so why don't we share out the notes, that way we can fill in for Dawn. Simple!". They put it to a vote and raised their wings if they were in agreement.

Everyone agreed, except for Dawn, who just stood there, lowered her beak and looked decidedly as though tears were coming to her eyes, in that hopeless sort of way. Gerty Greenfinch was quick to notice and carried on, "but, my lovelies, this isn't going to be easy. We will all have to sing our own parts and add in bits of Dawn's.



What we need is...." "A conductor!" shouted out Charlie. "Exactly, my dear Charlie" said Gerty, "And who better to be our conductor than our very own..." And they all exclaimed loudly "DAWN"! Immediately, Dawn looked up in amazement, paused and exclaimed "Well what are we waiting for..". She raised her wing, as if it were a baton and croaked:



The End

7 *Something to think or talk about?*

Jesus's friends had to rethink the way they did things after the resurrection. Life was no longer the same as it was before. God gave them help with his Holy Spirit and life was very different for them. They learnt that working together, praying together and supporting each other they could make a real difference and give them the strength to share the 'good news' of Easter.

At the moment life is very different for us all. How can we support each other at this time?

8

John 20:19-31 (NRSV)

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Jesus and Thomas

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin[a]), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

The Purpose of This Book

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may come to believe[b] that Jesus is the Messiah,[c] the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

What Easter means to me Reflections from our church

9

Members of our congregation were asked to send in video/audio talking about what easter means to them.

You can view them here:

<https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/sermons/what-easter-means-for-me-worship-at-home/>

10

Not so doubting Thomas with John Logan

This weeks address is available in two formats, text and video, both available here:

<https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/sermons/what-easter-means-for-me-worship-at-home/>



11

Prayers of Intercession *Written by Anna, Amon and Louise.*

For the world and its leaders:

We pray for our world leaders. Lord give them wisdom and guidance as they grapple with how to deal with this coronavirus pandemic.

We pray for the poor and the disadvantaged. Father let them know of your presence as they face their life's daily challenges.

We pray for those who are sick and in need of your healing. Lord, touch them with your healing hand and make them well again.

We pray for our fellow Christians wherever they may be. Some of them are finding it difficult to practise their religion safely. We ask you Lord to intervene and make their Christian life less dangerous.

For Our country:

We pray for this country during this difficult time. Lord be with all those who have lost their loved ones to this coronavirus pandemic. Father give them your love and comfort.

We pray for our hospitals and the National Health Service as they struggle to cope with the coronavirus pandemic. We ask you Lord to be with all the keyworkers and volunteers during this coronavirus pandemic. Lord give them courage, hope and strength to carry on in these difficult conditions.

For Our Community:

We pray for the homeless in our society and we ask you to give them shelter.

We pray for those in our community who are physically unwell or are suffering from depression and anxiety. Lord we ask you to heal them and give them hope for the future.

We pray for lonely, elderly and vulnerable people as they face life's challenges alone in isolation due to this pandemic. Father give them your love, courage and hope.

We also bring before you all those who are suffering from domestic violence in this difficult time. Lord, give them refuge.

For Our Circuit and our church at Bell Road:

We pray for our Circuit and our own church here at Bell Road. We pray for all our church leaders as they continue to do their best to minister unto us during this pandemic period when we can't be physically together every Sunday. Father we ask that you give them the courage and strength to carry on proclaiming your Holy name in these difficult circumstances.

For Ourselves and our families and friends:

Father, we ask you to continue to look after all of us, to protect us and to keep us safe from this evil coronavirus and other illnesses.

May we be steadfast in our faith and belief in you as our Lord and Saviour.

We ask all these things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.



12

Hymn

Singing the Faith 313 - Thine be the glory

Chosen by Nomatter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GaoV5w2Qfag>

I have chosen it as it reminds us about Jesus who has conquered death, he is risen and we give him glory

1 Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay:

*Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.*

2 Lo, Jesusmes us,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth,
death hath lost its sting:

*Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.*

3 No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of Life;
life is naught without thee:
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above:

*Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.*

Edmond Budry (1854–1932) translated by Richard Birch Hoyle (1875–1939)

13

Blessing

Bless us Lord:

- In our homes
- Together and apart
- In health and sickness
- In all we do.

Amen.



Collection

Should you wish to keep up your weekly collection you can give online here:

<https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/donate>

You can give a one off donation or set up regular giving so you don't forget. There is a space for your envelope scheme number if you use it.