

# twelvebaskets

*FREE TO DUPLICATE AND DISTRIBUTE*



## **EASTER 2A**

16th April 2023

A short act of worship and daily devotions

A Free resource funded by donations from Individuals, churches and **twelvebaskets**.

If you would like to help fund this resources [click here](#).

For more information <https://theworshipcloud.com/terms/free-weekly-resource>

## Opening / Centering Prayers

Christ Is Risen!

He is risen indeed

Fling wide the doors of your hearts and let the Saviour in!

Here I am Lord God, setting aside time to meet with you in prayer and worship,  
Come to know more of you, recognizing that by your Spirit, you are here.

The Christ who is God-made-human and the human is holding all of creation together  
in his divinity, I welcome you, into this space, into my heart again this day, Lord.

Come Lord Jesus,  
Come Lord of light,  
Come Prince of peace,  
Come Creator God and creative Spirit.  
Come.

Amongst all our doubting and uncertainty,  
I bring my whole self to worship this day, and in the stillness, let me just take a  
moment to still my mind, quieten the distractions, to focus on you, Lord God.

*[Pause].*

Amongst all the distractions of this day, Holy God, show me how to focus on you.

*[Pause].*

Thank you Lord, for your grace and mercy.

Thank you for the hope I carry in my heart,  
In Jesus' name I bring these – and all my prayers,

Amen.<sup>1</sup>

**You may now wish to say the Lord's Prayer in a version or translation with  
which you are most familiar.**

**Hymn:**

309 STF – See, what a morning - [YouTube](#)

*[Please note, Twelvebaskets does not own the rights to this video. Please check with  
the rights holder before using in public worship or online].*

**Reading:** John 20:19-31 – [Click for reading](#)

---

<sup>1</sup> Opening prayers written by Tim Baker

## Response to the reading:

The Easter story changes everything.

Death is not the end. Resurrection is real, and is happening all around us – that's why I love the way Easter and spring become so entwined in the way we think, at least here in the UK. Because, right now, if you pay attention, it looks like the whole of creation is singing to us about new life, about resurrection.

Philip Larkin's poem, *The Trees*, speaks to this miracle – you could look it up and think about how it is speaking to you today.

What about you, and your community or church – are you playing your part in the story or are we now huddled in a locked room, like the disciples on Easter evening? Are our doors open or closed (literally and metaphorically)? Do we need to get out more?

If the disciples hadn't taken courage, gone out from that locked room and spread the gospel, it would have been unspoken, unheard and lost to future generations. Had the disciples not responded to Christ's call, our churches would never even have existed.

If we're to be a missiological movement, we must live in obedience to our calling. We exist to spread the good news, far and wide, by whatever means we can: for that purpose the risen Christ, on that Easter evening, gave his Spirit to disheartened, dispirited apostles (ordinary people like us) so that they could share his love. And on the following week he came again so that one who had yet to see could both 'see' and believe.

May God grant us eyes to see, feet to follow and tongues to tell of his love. Amen

1. What did you hear as you read the Bible passage – did you notice anything different or new? Did anything speak to you or resonate with your own life story right now?
2. With which character or characters in the story do you identify? Why?
3. How can your church be a missional church?

## Hymn:

313 STF – Thine be the glory - [YouTube](#)

## Blessing

Everyday God,  
I thank you for the presence of your Son  
wherever I approach you in worship.

Help me now to fling wide the doors  
Breathe your Spirit deeply,  
That daily I might live as one of your faithful disciples  
Sharing the good news of the Kingdom  
Now and forever,

Amen.

## Prayers and Prayer Pointers for the Week

### Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April

- Breathe deeply, in and out, for a whole minute (it is worth timing yourself to make sure you commit to a minute – which can feel like a long time!). Concentrate on your breath. Feel the way your lungs fill with air, and empty out again.
- As you feel the flow of energy, in and out, notice how connected you are to the world around you. How God is at work in all things.
- Give thanks for this sense of connection, this prayer.

### Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April

- Find something in your house that is symbolic of your faith. Hold it. Give thanks for the journey of faith that God has taken you on in your lifetime. Ask for God to guide you on your onwards journey.

### Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April

- Find a piece of music that you wouldn't normally listen to, perhaps from a genre you are not particularly familiar with.
- Amongst all that is unfamiliar about the rhythm, the tempo, the instruments, the tone, listen for the surprising voice of God. Can you hear the divine speaking to you?
- Pray about any emotions or responses you notice in yourself.

### Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April

- Draw a picture of your local church. Include on the picture all the ways you see God at work, and all the things you want to ask God to work in. Pray about it.

### Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April

- Pour a glass of water. Think about the things you do that get in the way of your relationship with God. You might think it muddies the water of your life, but God forgives us for all these things, and offers us living water. Drink some of the water and give thanks for the way God reaches out to you with love and forgiveness.

### Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

- Today, several thousand people are gathering in London for what the climate change movement is calling 'The Big One', protesting outside Parliament for our government to take more drastic action to address the climate crisis.
- Today we pray for the planet, and for our stewardship of her resources. We pray for our leaders, and the changes we know we need to see in the world in order to ensure our earth is still here for future generations.