

Readings for the week

Today	Colossians 3 v 1 - 4 John 20 v 1 - 18
Monday	1 Corinthians 15 v 1 - 11
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15 v 12 - 19
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 15 v 20 - 28
Thursday	1 Corinthians 15 v 29 - 34
Friday	1 Corinthians 15 v 35 - 50
Saturday	1 Corinthians 15 v 51 - 58



Prayer

The Ministry Leadership Team would like you to pray for the following topics:

1. *Christ is risen! Alleluia! Praise God for the new life that Jesus brings.*
2. *On this joyful day of celebration, pray for Christians worldwide coping with being unable to rejoice together. Pray that we may know that, even in the isolation of our own homes, we are all one in Christ Jesus.*

If you want to volunteer, or need help, contact Alcester Community Resilience on Facebook or Tel: 0770 759 8379 or email Alcester.response@outlook.com

Each Sunday there is a Minster service available on the Welcome page of the Alcester Minster website

www.alcesterminster.org

Don't miss this Sundays Easter service.

Check out the website for resources to worship at home and, during the Coronavirus, you can also access the most current edition of Minster Matters and the Link from the Welcome Page of the website.



Did you know that you can now 'LIKE' Alcester Minster on Facebook? Find details and pictures of events at www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster If you would like to submit event notices or photos to be published on the page then please email administrator@alcesterminster.org



Welcome to the Alcester Minster Group of Churches Sunday 12 April 2020

Easter *White/Gold*

"So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God."

Colossians 3 v 1

Collect

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection
of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and
death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and
might,
now and in all eternity.

Alternative Collect

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the
chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith
and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands
open
in our Saviour Jesus
Christ.

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Alcester Minster website: www.alcesterminster.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster

Easter Sunday 'Thought for the Day' presented by Adrian

The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.'
Matthew 28.5-6 (from the Gospel reading Matthew 28.1-10)

Happy Easter from Juliette and I, and from all the members of the ministry team. We pray that you will know the reality of the risen Lord Jesus in your homes on this very special Easter Day.

Today, we are rejoicing that back in AD 33 Jesus Christ, the Son of God rose from the dead. We're celebrating that Jesus broke the power of spiritual separation from God by his death on the cross, and revealed that victory by breaking forth from the grave, and overcoming death. We're praising God that Jesus offers us new spiritual life, even whilst still in our mortal bodies.

Normally on Easter Day, we listen to the narrative from Luke or John; today's verses come from Matthew's account. In it, the women, who are first to see the evidence of the empty tomb are told by the angel who has rolled the stone away and shaken the guards rigid: 'Go quickly and tell his disciples. "He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him." And when Jesus appears to the women in the garden, he repeats the same instruction.

When you read the resurrection accounts together, it doesn't look as if the disciples went back from Jerusalem to Galilee immediately, and in Luke and John, Jesus appeared to them in the locked room where they were staying in Jerusalem on the evening of that first Easter Day.

However, the most transformational encounter Peter had with the risen Lord Jesus took place on the banks of lake Galilee, the place of his home and work.

So, in this time of staying at home, I want to encourage you that you can have a deep awareness of the risen Lord Jesus Christ this Easter in your home. It's the place Jesus chose for his disciples to meet him. This year, our homes are the places where Jesus has chosen for us to meet with him this Easter.

It's the Holy Spirit who makes Jesus real to us in a multitude of different ways. And just as the different resurrection appearances of Jesus met different needs in the lives of individuals, he will also meet your individual needs too.

One of the ways, the risen Jesus met the needs of the women in this resurrection account was to take away their fear, and that is something he will want to do for each of us too as we face these difficult and worrying times.

Here are a few ways in which you can consciously draw near to God in the season of Eastertide:

- **Spring Harvest at Home** – the annual post Easter Christian conference had to be cancelled, but a version of the conference is available free online this year - <https://springharvest.org/spring-harvest-home/>
- **Read one of the Gospels** over a series of days
- Find time to engage in **stillness prayer** each day
- **Read or re-read a Christian book**
- **Sit in the garden** – let God speak to you through the sights and sounds of his creation
- **Listen to some Christian music** – from Handel to Matt Redman!

Staying at home gives us an opportunity to draw closer to our risen Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless each of you this Easter.

Prayer

Ever-living God,
Help us to celebrate our joy in the resurrection of the Lord and to express in our lives the love we celebrate.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, you Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, forever and ever.

Amen