

## Greeting the Easter Dawn

### Introduction and lighting of the fire

Prayer ending with ....

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

### We wait together then light our own candles from the fire.

**I will make a way in the wilderness,  
and rivers in the desert.**

'I am the Lord, your Holy One,  
the Creator of Israel, your King.'

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters,

'Remember not the former things,  
nor consider the things of old.

'Behold, I am doing a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

'I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,

'The people whom I formed for myself,  
that they might declare my praise.'

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**I will make a way in the wilderness,  
and rivers in the desert.**

### The Gospel Reading Mark 16:1-8 The Resurrection of Jesus

## 'What happens now?'

God, now set loose from the grave, what happens now?

May your new dawn footprints take us back into and not away from the world. Now you are risen, may we go back to Galilee and believe again, trust again, and follow you again, knowing what we know now.

May we go back to the poor, and say,

**"Yes! God is on your side, and we will be your companions."**

May we go back to the imprisoned, and say,

**"Yes! God's intent is to set you free, and it is our fight too."**

May we go back to the hungry, and say,

**"Yes! God is preparing a feast right now, and we would love to accompany you to the table."**

May we go back to the blind, and say,

**"Yes! God has a vision for you, and we want you to lead us into it."**

May we go back to the oppressed, and say,

**"Yes! God is freeing the world, and we want to work for each other's freedom."**

Now you are set loose from the grave, before we forget, and slip back into our normal ways: our routines that save us from being transformed; our habits that save us from thinking about recreation; our patterns that save us from stretching our faith;

may we go back to where we have been, and begin again, with this new trust resurrection brings, the new colours we see, and the new confidence we hold, and lead us into every future that resurrection brings, that we may go with you, and say,

**"Yes! You are risen in us, and we will be the community that bears witness to You in the world."**

So be it.           **Amen!**

### **The Easter Song ('The Exsultet')**

**This is the night of new beginnings.**

**This is the night when heaven meets earth.**

**This is the night filled with God's glory,  
Promise of our new birth!**

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.*

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in your church gathered today.*

**This is the night Christ our Redeemer  
Rose from the grave triumphant and free,  
Leaving the tomb of evil and darkness  
Empty for all to see.**

*Christ be our light ....*

**Now will the fire be kindled in darkness  
Burn to dispel the shadows of night.  
Star of the morning, Jesus our Saviour,  
you are the world's true light!**

*Christ be our light ....*

**Sing of the hope deeper than dying.  
Sing of the power stronger than death.  
Sing of the love endless as heaven,  
Dawning throughout the earth.**

*Christ be our light ....*

**Into this world morning is breaking.  
All of God's people, lift up your voice.  
Cry out with joy, tell out the story,  
All of the earth, rejoice!**

*Christ be our light ....*

Based on the words of the Exsultet: Music by Bernadette Farrell

### **We light Candles for our Churches**

**Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end,  
Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages;  
to him be glory and power,  
through every age and for ever. Amen.**

*The Paschal candles are lit.*

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,  
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds. **Amen.**

## We Greet each other

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### The journey from the sadness of Good Friday to the joy of today.

‘Christ is risen!’ Who in our community, in our parish do we want to proclaim to today ‘Christ is risen!’? As we pause, perhaps watch the fire or close our eyes we think of the places we would like to proclaim the good news of Easter. Perhaps think of your own road, or the roads you walk often, seeing in your mind’s eye the places and people that are longing for resurrection today.

*Silence*

And whether you feel able to say it in a whisper, or shout it out loud, let us claim the promise of resurrection for the places and people you have been thinking about, with the repeated refrain, ‘**Christ is risen!**’

### Receiving Christ’s Peace

The risen Jesus asked Mary Magdalene, “Why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” ... And then he said to her, “Mary!” (John 20:15-16)

*You might like to hold your hands open to receive Jesus’ peace, for you today. At the end we respond Amen*

### Final Hymn

**Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!  
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!  
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!  
suffer to redeem our loss. hallelujah!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, hallelujah!  
unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!  
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!  
sinners to redeem and save. hallelujah!**

**But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!  
our salvation have procured, hallelujah!  
now in heaven above he’s King, hallelujah!  
where the angels ever sing: hallelujah!**

*Lyra Davidica, 1708*

*CCLI, St Nicholas, Little Bowden 554184*