

Prayer at Easter 2020

Sharing Our Love and Joy



The children at my school wanted to share some love and joy with those who need to stay at home at the moment, so we made these beautiful Easter cards. The children worked so hard on the collages and messages inside, and it was a wonderful time of being able to share conversation with them around loneliness, isolation, and continually finding joy in the small things. We all have things we can be grateful for, and that day, I was very grateful for my job and the joy which can be found in an inquisitive child's heart.

The children really enjoyed making the cards, and learning all about the people they were going to be sent to. If there were enough of us at school that day, we would have made you all cards!

I know the children would be delighted if anyone from the Corps would like to write back to them, and tell them a bit about their days at home. The children long for connection, especially given their smaller worlds at the moment. If you do feel inspired to reply, you can always phone, email or post messages to me, and I will pass them on. Thank you.

Prayer Chain

I am hoping to re-establish a 'Prayer Chain' in the Corps. My hope is that if we, or anyone we know is in need of prayer, that we would feel able to ask for others to be alongside (with their permission). If you would be like to be involved in lifted people up before God for whatever reason, and would be comfortable praying on the telephone with both the person calling you, and the person you're calling, please do let me know and I will add you to the list. Thank you.

A Worship Song

Song: "Hosanna" by Hillsong Worship

If you have access to the internet, you may prefer to listen to this song:

<https://youtu.be/hnMevXQutyE>

Reflect on what the Lord is saying to you through these words:

*I see the King of glory
Coming on the clouds with fire
The whole earth shakes
The whole earth shakes*

*I see His love and mercy
Washing over all our sin
The people sing
The people sing*

*Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest*

*I see a generation
Rising up to take their place
With selfless faith
With selfless faith*

*And I see a near revival
Stirring as we pray and seek
We're on our knees*

We're on our knees

*Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest*

*Heal my heart and make it clean
Open up my eyes to the things
unseen*

*Show me how to love like You have
loved me*

*Break my heart for what breaks
Yours*

*Everything I am for Your kingdom's
cause
As I walk from nothing to eternity*

*Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest*

Easter Prayer Stations from Home

Although we need to stay in our individual homes during this Easter period, God's message of hope, triumph and love remains as powerful as it ever was.

I would therefore like to invite you to join me wherever you are, at 11am this Easter Saturday (11th) to prayerfully work through the following activities. My hope is that through these activities, we as a church community can be united with each other and with God as we reflect on the reality of his Easter message.

Please do share any thoughts, encouragements or prayer requests with me and others following this time of inter-connected activity.

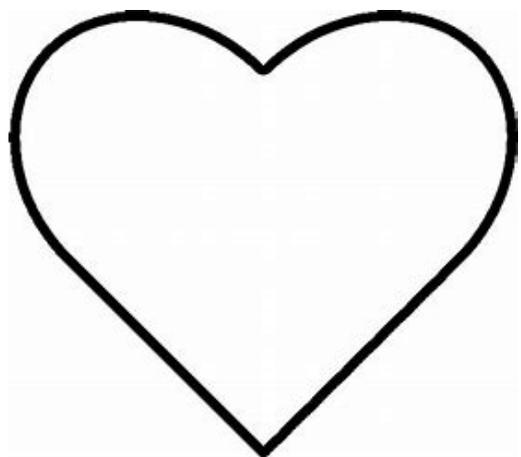
Please gather the following resources from around your home, if you have them:

- * Pens/Pencils
- * Bible
- * Vinegar (small quantity poured into an eggcup)
- * Small bowl of water and a towel
- * Notepaper
- * Perfume

1) Read Matthew 26:6-7; Matthew 26:12; Matthew 26: 14-16

Jesus said: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Mary and Judas show us how true that is – one loved Jesus and the other loved money.

Spray some perfume/aftershave on the heart and write a prayer asking Jesus to become/stay your greatest treasure.



2) Read John 13:1; John 13:3-5; John 13:14-15

Jesus' greatest act of service was to lay down His life so that dirty lives, rather than dirty feet, could be washed clean. Thank Jesus for what an incredible way he has served you.

Think about who Jesus is inviting you to serve. Whose 'feet' can you wash? Wash your hands as a symbol of preparing for the service Jesus is calling you to, and write this person an encouraging note to share with them later.

3) A Bible Reflection:

Make yourself comfortable and take time to meet with the Lord through His word.

* **PREPARE** - take a few minutes in silence to breathe deeply and invite the Holy Spirit.

* **READ** - slowly read through John 20:11-18 and pause in silence for one minute at the end to let the words sink in.

* **NOTICE** - as you read the passage again, notice what words or phrases jump out at you. How do they make you feel? What areas of your life do they make you think of?

* **RESPOND** - after reading the story for a third time, talk with God about anything emerging from the passage or on your mind.

* **BE STILL** - read the passage for the final time and take several minutes to be still before God, resting in His presence, inviting the Holy Spirit to use what you've read to transform you.

4) An Activity:

Go into your kitchen and open two cupboards where you store food. Count how many items of food you have in total in these cupboards.

Is the number roughly what you were expecting? Do you have plenty of food, or not quite as much as you would like?

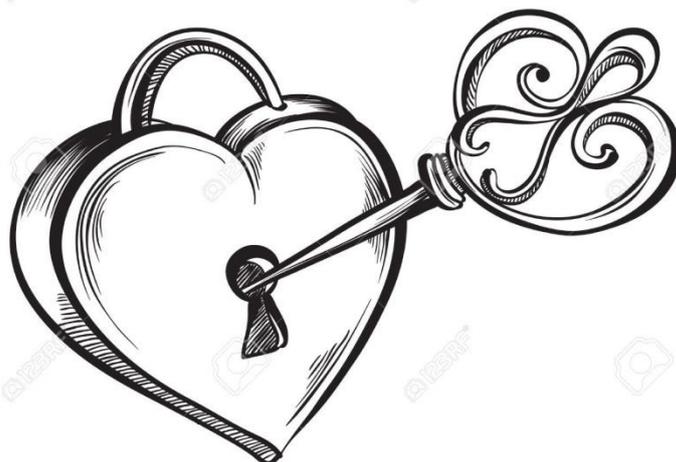
Take some time to think about those in our local community, country and world who currently do not have enough food to eat. Offer God your prayers of intercession for these people.

5) Read John 20:1-2; John 20:18-20

Over 500 people saw the risen Jesus over the next 40 days before He went back to be with His Father in heaven.

Death could not hold Jesus. He is alive! Jesus' resurrection proves that He is who He said He is; the Son of God who came to be our Saviour. Heaven's door is now unlocked and open wide to all those who believe and trust in Jesus. We are offered the gift of eternal life.

Focus on/decorate the key below, and as you do so, thank Jesus for opening the door to eternal life that begins here and continues when one day He will raise us to be with Him forever. Ask Jesus to help you to keep following Him day by day.



A Prayer of Praise and Thanks



Praise be the nurses and doctors,
every medical staff bent over flesh
to offer care, for lives saved and
lives lost, for showing up either way,

Praise for the farmers, tilling soil,
planting seeds so food can grow, an
act of hope if ever there was,

Praise be the janitors and garbage
collectors, the grocery store clerks,
and the truck drivers barreling
through long quiet nights,

Give thanks for bus drivers, delivery
persons, postal workers, and all
those keeping an eye on water, gas,
and electricity,

Blessings on our leaders, making
hard choices for the common good,
offering words of assurance,

Celebrate the scientists, working
away to understand the thing that
plagues us, to find an antidote, all

the medicine makers, praise be the
journalists keeping us informed,

Praise be the teachers, finding new
ways to educate children from afar,
and blessings on parents holding it
together for them,

Blessed are the elderly and those
with weakened immune systems, all
those who worry for their health,
praise for those who stay at home
to protect them,

Blessed are the domestic violence
victims, on lock down with abusers,
the homeless and refugees,

Praise for the poets and artists, the
singers and storytellers, all those
who nourish with words and sound
and colour,

Blessed are the ministers and
therapists of every kind, bringing
words of comfort,

Blessed are the ones whose jobs
are lost, who have no savings, who
feel fear of the unknown gnawing,

Blessed are those in grief, especially
who mourn alone, blessed are those
who have passed into the Great
Night,

Praise for police and firefighters,
paramedics, and all who work to
keep us safe, praise for all the
workers and caregivers of every
kind,

Praise for the sound of notifications,
messages from friends reaching
across the distance, give thanks for
laughter and kindness,

Praise be our four-footed
companions, with no forethought or
anxiety, responding only in love,

Praise for the seas and rivers,
forests and stones who teach us to
endure,

Give thanks for your ancestors, for
the wars and plagues they endured
and survived, their resilience is in
your bones, your blood,

Blessed is the water that flows over
our hands and the soap that helps
keep them clean, each time a
baptism,

Praise every moment of stillness
and silence, so new voices can be
heard, praise the chance at
slowness,

Praise be the birds who continue to
sing the sky awake each day, praise
for the primrose poking yellow
petals from dark earth, blessed is
the air clearing overhead so one day
we can breathe deeply again.

And when this has passed may we
say that love spread more quickly
than any virus ever could, may we
say this was not just an ending but
also a place to begin.

—- Christine Valters Paintner, [Abbey of the Arts](#) —-

*Have an inspired, blessed and hope-filled Easter
time.*

Sophie