

St James C of E

*• Celebrate •*

# EASTER

*• He is Risen •*

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>  
April 2020

# Worship Songs

click on the blue link – You Tube (you may need to skip the ads)



Christ Arose (Low in the Grave)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-xueC\\_HRh4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-xueC_HRh4)

# Worship Songs

click on the blue link – You Tube (you may need to skip the ads)



Christ Is Risen (new song)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMX9CNgRJCM>

## Bible reading **John 20: 19-end** New International Version (NIV)

### Jesus Has Risen

#### Jesus Appears to His Disciples

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

#### Jesus Appears to Thomas

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

#### The Purpose of John's Gospel

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

# Bible reading Matthew 21

## The Story of Thomas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3CYqnpngjVo>

# Worship Songs

click on the blue link – You Tube (you may need to skip the ads)



Led Like a Lamb

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= Tf\\_gYmJaig](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tf_gYmJaig)

# Thought for Today

SUNDAY 19 April 2020

By Jill Macdonald

John 20: 19-end

Like me, have you sometimes wished you could actually see Jesus, be able to touch him, and be able to physically hear what he has to say to you?

When you have a particularly thorny problem to sort out, that keeps going round and round in your head seemingly getting nowhere, do you, again like me, wish you could sit down in a physical one to one situation with him so that you have no doubt about how to solve it when you've spoken together?

In today's Gospel Thomas wanted just that physical assurance.

To be fair, he must have been absolutely gutted when the others told him that Jesus had stood among them and, not only spoken to them, but also breathed on them the Holy Spirit.

Talk about feeling left out!

I wonder if his response to their spectacular news was as it was because he was feeling so disappointed, rejected.....miffed even!

# Thought for Today

EASTER 2 (19.04.20) John 20: 19-end

Sometimes it's interesting trying to read between the lines.

Between verse 25 and verse 26 a week has passed.....probably a week in which the disciples who had seen Jesus remained in an excited state, reliving that meeting over and over again.

And Thomas wasn't really part of it.

Even though he had always been one of the inner circle of 12 disciples right from the beginning, in the thick of all that was going on, he now finds himself almost like an outsider looking in.

A very hard place to be!

But Jesus didn't leave him in that place.

Jesus joins the disciples in a locked room again, this time when Thomas is with them: and he asks Thomas to do exactly as Thomas said he needed to do a week earlier in order to believe.....put his finger where the nails were and his hand into Jesus' side!

I don't actually think that Thomas had thrown away his loyalty to Jesus or to the disciples. If he had he wouldn't have stuck around. But he stayed, worked through his issues and Jesus graciously granted him his request.

# Thought for Today

EASTER 2 (19.04.20) John 20: 19-end

So why doesn't he come to us physically when we're struggling; when we're wondering where God is; when we feel rejected and alone?

Well, we have to remember that this event occurred before Jesus ascended into heaven. The time frame is between the Resurrection and Ascension and between those two events he was appearing to many people, including a group of 500.

We live in the time frame after the Ascension; and also after Pentecost when we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit into the world so that everyone, everywhere and anywhere, in any time, can know God's presence with them. Jesus couldn't do that in bodily form but God, the Holy Spirit can.

So was Thomas wrong to doubt?

Should we be burdened with guilt if we doubt?

I would say that if doubt leads to questions; and those questions lead to answers; and those answers are accepted, then doubt has done a good work. It is when doubt becomes stubbornness and stubbornness becomes a life-style that doubt harms faith.

When we doubt we mustn't stay stuck in it. We need to let that doubt deepen our faith as we continue to search for answers.

# Thought for Today

EASTER 2 (19.04.20) John 20: 19-end

God's plan to not limit himself to one body was indeed very wise because now he can be present with all of us all the time. He is with us right now and we can talk to him at any hour of the day or night.....because God never slumbers or sleeps!

I can well imagine that some of you are tired of hearing me say it, but it is a fact that we need to read our Bibles, regularly, consistently and prayerfully because God, the Trinity, is revealed in its pages from beginning to end. His love for us is present throughout the pages of the Old Testament and explosively revealed in the New Testament through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. Through the words of the Bible we will discover how to live as God intended us to live as well as his plan for our lives.

If any of us are going through a period of doubt as to whether God's presence is with us at the moment or not during these strange times we live in let me assure you that God is definitely still in control.

Just remember the cross!! In the darkness of all that God was still in control and his purpose and plans were still working out.

Nothing has changed! Rejoice!

# Sunday Activity

Fill in the crossword.

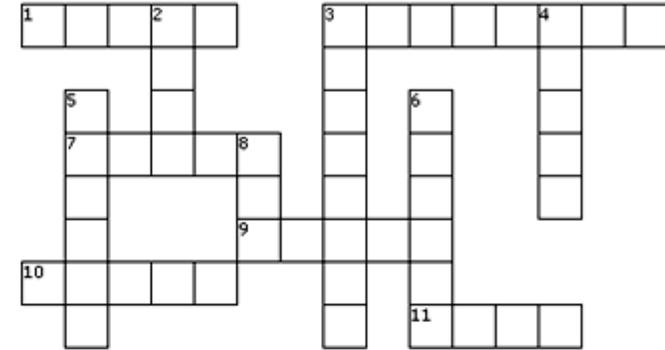
The answers are in the box ;)

## "Stop doubting and believe!"

John 20:19-31 (NIV)



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### ACROSS

1. To believe in something for which there is no proof
3. A follower of Jesus
7. The body parts at the end of the arms
9. A pointed and headed fastener designed to be pounded into wood
10. To be in a state of pleasure or delight
11. An entrance into a building or room

### DOWN

2. One of two babies born at the same time
3. Unwilling to believe that something is true
4. Free from conflict; getting along with others; opposite of war
5. The disciple who would not believe without seeing
6. Not open
8. Breaking a religious or moral law

### Words Used

door	sin	Thomas	nails
closed	hands	happy	disciple
peace	doubting	faith	twin

# Prayers

Intercessions for Easter 2 (19.04.20)

Lord Jesus Christ, you appeared to your disciples and brought them peace. May your church, both worldwide and at St James, rejoice in your presence and life-giving Spirit....particularly during this time of massive changes in our daily habits as we travel through the of uncertainty due to the coronavirus. May we, as Christians, hold fast to the certain truth that you are still in control even though that may not seem to be the case.

Bring us though any doubts we may be experiencing at this time so that we continue to proclaim you as Lord and God.

Lord in your mercy – Hear our prayer

# Prayers

Lord Jesus Christ, your resurrection brought new life, with the added hope of eternal life after death. We pray for governments around the world who are tired and weary from the extra work and worry which the coronavirus has foisted upon them. Bring your fresh life, your Godly wisdom, and your resurrection energy to all who seek to find the best way forward as they prepare exit strategies for their countries.

Lord in Your Mercy – Hear our Prayer

# Prayers

Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your disciples as apostles of forgiveness and penitence. Turn our hearts from the evil we do and the good that we do not do so that we may be living, shining examples of Christ's love for the world. Set us free from the weight of sin that often clings so persistently so that we can minister to others the saving grace of our Redeemer Jesus and be instruments of extending his kingdom.

Lord in your Mercy – Hear our Prayer

# Prayers

Lord Jesus Christ, you desire our good above all other and speak tenderly to the afflicted. Hold close to you those whose needs we bring before you.....Bring us all through times of trial to praise and glorify your name.

Lord Jesus Christ, you were handed over and crucified for our salvation. Bring to your inheritance all who trust in this hope. Grant life in your name.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers through our saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

# Worship Songs

click on the blue link – You Tube (you may need to skip the ads)



Your Love is Amazing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3FrsFBrD3I>

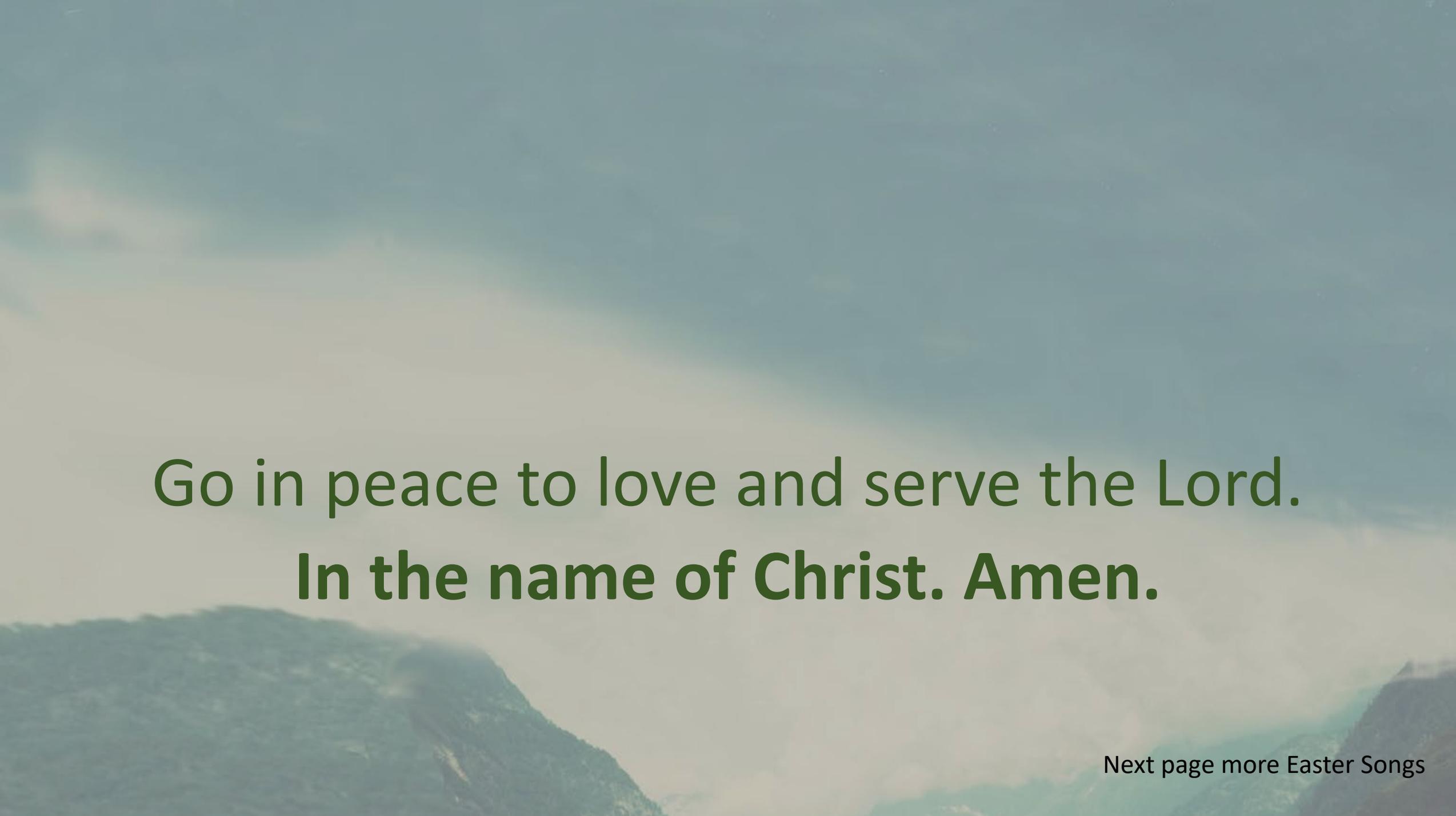
# Worship Songs

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Christ the Lord is Risen Today

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lchVdAqCWk>



Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Next page more Easter Songs

# Other Easter Songs

- Forever <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKzS4SjBeb8>
- This is Amazing Grace <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgsbaBlaoVc>
- Mighty to Save <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnXX8TbUX-E>
- O Praise the Name <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqBpifDpNKc>
- Rescuer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wCfHXgJbdg>
- Happy Day <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRSOLhFqWh0>
- Lead Me to the Cross <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-JBbdJ5eZ8>
- Glorious Day <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ntwGWzdCwc>
- The Power of the Cross <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPFv-ywTY-c>