



BASINGSTOKE SALVATION ARMY

q u a r a n t i n e w o r s h i p

Sunday 19 April 2020

Introduction

Join us online if you can at 11am. Website: www.christianworldmedia/livesite/BasingstokeSalvationArmy.

Facebook - www.facebook.com/BasingstokeSalvationArmy/live.

YouTube - www.youtube.com/robwestwoodpayne/live.

Listen on any phone – dial 01256 679888 (from around three hours after the service).

Song – Christ is alive! Let Christians sing

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
To distant years in Palestine,
But saving, healing, here and now,
And touching every place and time.

3 In every insult, rift and war,
Where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
And lives, where even hope has died.

4 Women and men, in age and youth,
Can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
And find the way, the life, the truth,
Revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring
Good news to this and every age,
Till earth and sky and ocean ring
With joy, with justice, love and praise.

Brian Wren

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A Prayer for Others

Heavenly Father, we pray for all the places in the world that need your peace: places where the ongoing pandemic threatens the stability of nations; places where war and violence continues to cause so much pain and destruction; places where homes, livelihoods and families have been destroyed, and lives lost.

Give wisdom to world leaders – to presidents and prime ministers, to politicians of all persuasions – that they may strive for lasting peace and true justice, not putting personal ambitions before the needs of their people, especially in this time of global crisis.

We pray for those who need peace of mind: those weighed down by the stresses and strains of life, or who suffer with anxiety, or are oppressed by worry and fear in the difficult times; for those who find it hard to let go of things and simply trust in you.

Amen.

Song – Celebrate Jesus, Celebrate

Celebrate Jesus, celebrate!
Celebrate Jesus, celebrate!
Celebrate Jesus, celebrate!
Celebrate Jesus, celebrate!

He is risen, He is risen,
And He lives forever more.
He is risen, He is risen,
Come on and celebrate
The resurrection of our Lord.

Gary Oliver

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www.salvationarmy.org.uk/basingstoke



Bible Reading: John 20:19-31 (New Living Translation)

¹⁹That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said. ²⁰As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord!²¹ Again he said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” ²²Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

²⁴One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. ²⁵They told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he replied, “I won’t believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.”

²⁶Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!”

²⁸“My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed.

²⁹Then Jesus told him, “You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.”

³⁰The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

Song – Crown him with many crowns

Crown him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own;
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

3 Crown him the Lord of peace,
Whose power a sceptre sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease
And all be prayer and praise;
His reign shall know no end,
And round his pierced feet
Fair flowers of Paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet.

2 Crown him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o’er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife
For those he came to save;
His glories now we sing
Who died, and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.

4 Crown him the Lord of love;
Behold his hands and side,
Those wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified;
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
Thy praise and glory shall not fail
Throughout eternity.

Matthew Bridges (1800–1894) (verses 1, 3, 4), Godfrey Thring (1823–1903) (verse 2)



Bible Message: The Truth Will Out

The mind's need for order

The human mind needs to make sense of things, to understand the world, to organise everything that is thrown at us. It's the basis for: scientific discoveries, legal argument, debates and even mystery stories. It's also where conspiracy theories come from. We need to make sense of things that make no sense.

The same goes for faith: it's a mystery of the heart that the mind wants to solve. At Easter we celebrate biggest mystery of faith: Jesus was killed for the sins of the world but then rose from the grave. We can't get our heads around that.

John 20:31 NLT

But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

Despite 2,000 years of such conspiracy theories, disproving the resurrection has proven elusive. Fortunately, gospels help us to believe in resurrection of Jesus. In fact, the whole reason for John to write his gospel is to give us evidence for Christ, and to bring us to faith in Christ.

The doubting disciples

John 20:25 NLT

They told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side."

Thomas should have had doubts! The resurrection claims are so far-fetched that he should be forgiven for thinking that they were just dreaming, or that a ghost had visited his fellow disciples.

If the water-turned-to-wine was drunk, the bread from heaven eaten, and the man returned from the dead unwrapped by human hands, why should the resurrected Jesus not be touched by an inquiring disciple? Since the disciples had claimed that a real, physical resurrection had indeed occurred, it is difficult to fault Thomas for asking to verify it by physical means. (Dr. Joseph R. Dongell)

Thomas wanted to make sense of something that makes no sense.

The Resurrection is no conspiracy theory

John 20:28-29 NLT

"My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed. Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."

Jesus doesn't condemn Thomas. Faith is not simply a matter of hearing rather than seeing. The whole purpose of John's gospel is to present Jesus' miraculous signs "so that you may continue to believe." Salvation for the world is based on people coming to believe in Jesus based on the witness of his original disciples who had seen and experienced his ministry firsthand. Following generations would hear and believe what these witnesses had heard and believed.

What Thomas needed was assurance that the one who stood in their midst with the wounds in his hands and side visible was the same one who had called them together. We can be assured of the same.

We can experience peace and pass it on to others

John 20:26 NLT



BASINGSTOKE SALVATION ARMY

quarantine worship

Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said.

Many of us have doubts about our faith. Jesus doesn't condemn us. He knows some people need to doubt before they believe. If you've ever wished you could see, touch and hear Jesus, sit down and get his advice, then you can. He is always present with you, through his Holy Spirit. You can talk to him and find his words in the Bible. Jesus can be as real to you as he was to Thomas.

Jesus says: "Peace be with you." Conspiracy theories can never bring you peace. But Jesus can. It's a matter of faith.

How could you be a living example of resurrection life this week? Are there people you've lost touch with? Either or because of current restrictions? Renew connection with them this week and say, "Peace be with you."

Song – From Heaven you came, helpless babe

From Heaven you came, helpless babe,
Entered our world, your glory veiled;
Not to be served but to serve,
And give your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now to follow him,
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King.*

2 There in the garden of tears,
My heavy load he chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

3 Come see his hands and his feet,
The scars that speak of sacrifice;
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered.

4 So let us learn how to serve,
And in our lives enthrone him;
Each other's needs to prefer,
For it is Christ we're serving.

Graham Kendrick

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Song – Lord, I come before your throne of grace

Lord, I come before your throne of grace;
I find rest in your presence and fullness of joy.
In worship and wonder I behold your face,
Singing, 'What a faithful God have I.'

*What a faithful God have I,
What a faithful God.
What a faithful God have I,
Faithful in every way.*

2 Lord of mercy, you have heard my cry;
Through the storm you're the beacon, my song in
the night.
In the shelter of your wings, hear my heart's reply,
Singing, 'What a faithful God have I.'

3 Lord, all sovereign, granting peace from Heaven,
Let me comfort those who suffer with the comfort
you have given.
I will tell of your great love for as long as I live,
Singing, 'What a faithful God have I.'

Robert and Dawn Critchley

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