

Glory shines through everything that is:  
Unconquerable is the power of love.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!



All you that sleep, awake, rise from the dead:  
The light of dawn will shine upon you.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!



Embrace the living hope. Death has no final word.  
In the resurrection of Jesus is life in God for ever.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!



*Excerpts are taken from an Easter Canticle in Out of the Silence ...  
Into the Silence by Jim Cotter. Cairns Publications, Harlech, 2006.  
p. 37. Used with permission.*

## Easter Prayer Leaflet 2020



Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Let the gospel trumpets speak and the news, as of holy  
fire, bursting and flaming and inextinguishable, runs to  
the end of the earth

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

During Lent we have been contemplating the destructive  
force of fire and the ashes of repentance and sorrow.  
Here is another image of fire bringing light and  
magnificent energy; lighting up the GOSPEL. In some  
church services the reading of the Gospel is  
accompanied by folk bearing lighted candles to remind  
us of the greatness of God's gift in Jesus as told in  
those four gospels.

Christ, the Light of the World has 'released death's ancient grip'. This is good news indeed for what a grip death has on our collective imagination. It is failure - I didn't exercise enough, eat the right food, keep myself pure enough, love God enough. Some are gripped by the fascination of war, crime and cruelty in the media or the justified death meted out the wrongdoers. Others grieve over suffering and death in war-torn countries. In Christian thought and belief death is only part of the human enterprise because

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Death yields strange gifts to life,  
Its colours rich and deep and radiant,  
Life more solid and more real.

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Lighten up this Easter. You may decide to not beat yourself up for your failings and think and pray about God's love for you, just as you are.

Brush the shadows away. You may remember a special hymn or prayer that will help you think on the bright side of life. Day by day, three things I pray: the song from the rock musical *Godspell* based on St Richard of Chichester's prayer, for example.

Practise the art of gloom free living. Don't watch the ads which make you unsatisfied with your lot or try 'Singing in the rain'.

Accept death as part of your journey towards life eternal. For this you do need a bit of preparation. This prayer was first printed in 1711.

Now I lay me down to sleep,  
I pray the Lord my Soul to keep  
If I should die before I 'wake,  
I pray the Lord my Soul to take.

It does take some courage to say this while snuggling down between the sheets. And trust.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

