



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 19th July 2026

compiled by Barbara Dalton - Local Preacher in training

Call to worship

Our God is awesome!

By his word, he brought heaven and earth into being,
by his Spirit, he sustains them.

Whatever we have been through in the past week,
we have come today to worship God
let us recognise God's worth and give him praise. **Amen**

Song - STF 20

1] Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here.
Come, bow before Him now,
with reverence and fear.
In Him no sin is found,
we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here.

2] Be still, for the glory of the Lord,
is shining all around.
He burns with holy fire,
with splendor He is crowned.
How awesome is the sight,
our radiant King of Light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord,
is shining all around.

3] Be still, for the power of the Lord,
is moving in this place.
He comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him,
in faith receive from Him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord,
is moving in this place.

David J. Evans (b.1957)

Reading John 20: 24-29 (NIV)

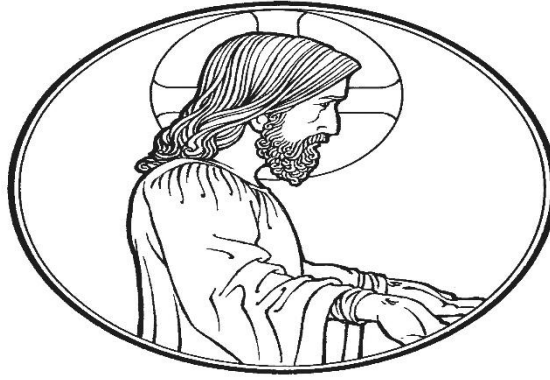
Now Thomas one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

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."



Reflection

Something important is happening deep within Thomas. In his heart there is a deep scepticism about all this talk of resurrection. Perhaps it simply seems too good to be true. Could it all be wishful thinking, or the result of grief and longing? Something within him resists a faith that comes too easily, one that feels more like a fairy tale than reality.

Thomas understands that if Jesus has truly risen from the dead, then he must still bear the wounds of the cross. Suffering cannot simply be erased or forgotten. Love leaves its marks. The cross matters because it tells the truth about the cost of love, and the risen Christ does not hide those wounds - he carries them into new life.

Perhaps that is why Thomas' faith becomes so profound. He does not encounter a different Jesus, untouched by pain, but the same Jesus whose wounds have been transformed. Resurrection is not an escape from suffering; it is God's victory through suffering.

Where are the places within you that still need to meet the risen Christ? Are there wounds you carry that you have tried to ignore? Is there grief, disappointment, fear, or regret that still longs for healing?

Now widen your gaze to the world around you. Think of places scarred by war, poverty, hunger, injustice, loneliness, and loss. Can Christ truly be risen there? Can hope really be found amid such brokenness?

Read today's Gospel once more. Imagine Thomas reaching out to touch the wounds of Jesus. Picture the expression on his face as doubt gives way to wonder, fear to faith. This is no sentimental happy ending. It is real life born out of real death; hope that has passed through suffering and emerged stronger than despair. Stay for a moment with that hope. Notice if even the smallest spark begins to stir within you. Hold it gently before God. Let it grow. Tell the Lord where you long to see resurrection in your own life and in our wounded world.

Then, with Thomas, if you can, make his words your own:

"My Lord and my God."

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen

Song - STF 351

1] In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all,
Here, in the love of Christ, I stand.

2] In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
'Til on that cross, as Jesus died.
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin, on Him, was laid;
Here, in the death of Christ, I live.

3] There in the ground, his body lay,
Light of the world, by darkness, slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave, He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine -
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4] No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of Hell, no scheme of man;
Can ever pluck me from His hand,
'Til He returns or calls me home,
Here, in the power of Christ, I'll stand!

*Keith Getty (b.1974)
& Stuart Townend (b. 1963)*

Intercessional Prayers

Lord Jesus, you revealed yourself to Thomas and strengthened his faith. Strengthen your Church throughout the world, that we may boldly proclaim your resurrection with confidence and love.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who struggle with doubt, uncertainty, or unanswered questions. Reveal your presence to them in ways that bring hope, peace, and renewed faith.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Guide those who govern our communities and nations. Grant them wisdom, integrity, and compassion as they work for justice, peace, and the common good.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

We remember those who are sick, lonely, grieving, or burdened by hardship. May they experience the healing presence of the risen Christ and find comfort in his unfailing love.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Help us to encourage one another in faith, welcoming those who seek you with patience and kindness. May our lives bear witness to the joy of believing without seeing.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Increase our faith, Lord. When we are fearful or uncertain, remind us that you are present among us. Help us to trust your promises and to confess with Thomas, "My Lord and my God."

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Risen Lord Jesus, you did not reject Thomas in his doubt but lovingly drew him into deeper faith. Hear the prayers we have offered today and continue to reveal yourself to us, that we may believe, trust, and faithfully serve you all the days of our lives. We ask this in your holy name. **Amen**

Blessing

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe"

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen