

Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week: 4th April, Easter Sunday

Old Testament: Isaiah 25: 6-9

Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

New Testament: Acts 10: 34-43

Gospel: Luke 24.1-12

Reflection on the Gospel reading, written by Peter Graystone, Copyright ©The Archbishops' Council 2017.

For the followers of Jesus, working out what had happened on the first Easter Sunday was a slow process. The women's initial reaction was confusion. Then they were frightened. Then they imprecisely recalled something Jesus had said. The men's first reaction was to dismiss what they were told out of hand. Only Peter afforded the women the dignity of going to see whether there was any substance to what they said. But he had no flash of insight, just puzzlement.

Resurrection is real, but it will not be hurried. The tragedies of our lives often come at speed – bereavement, breakdown of a relationship, pain. But the way God brings new life is measured.

When I am bereaved, resurrection begins when I look at a photograph of the person whose loss has wounded me, and the sight of it unexpectedly brings a joyful memory instead of distress. When a relationship ends, resurrection begins when I realize for the first time that I am enjoying something because I am me, not because I am half of a couple.

When pain is intolerable, resurrection begins when I slip away from the body that has limited and disabled me, and step liberated into the presence of God. That, more than any other is how God silently brings new life.

Today, as on that Sunday that changed everything, God reveals himself slowly. But his plan to make all things new is irrepensible.

Collect for Easter Sunday

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection
of your Son overcame the old order
of sin and death to make all things new in
him: grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.

A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England. This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.



Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am Sunday Worship; Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm