

## Easter Prayers



### Easter Greeting

Glory be to you,  
God, our strength and our hope.  
Fill your people with joy  
and your church with celebration  
that the world may know  
that your holy son Jesus  
is not a dead hero we remember,  
but the living Lord we worship,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be our praise for ever. Hallelujah.  
Amen.

### Easter Call to Worship

We have travelled a long way to come here  
from many places, and through Holy Week  
and Easter. Now we gather in God's name in  
God's place. We have told the story of Jesus'  
suffering and death, and remembered how  
the disciples were scattered in despair.  
Now we celebrate Christ risen from the dead.  
We have been silent in the face of failure and  
fear, but now we have found our voices,  
know your hope. Now we shout the good  
news, & sing alleluia. Amen.

### Easter Prayer

Lord God,  
early in the morning,  
when the world was young,

you made life in all its beauty;  
you gave birth to all that we know.  
Hallowed be your name.  
Early in the morning,  
a voice in a graveyard  
and footsteps in the dew  
proved that you had risen,  
that you had come back  
to those and for those  
who had forgotten, denied and destroyed  
you.

Hallowed be your name.

This morning we celebrate  
your creation, your life,  
your death and resurrection,  
your commitment to us;

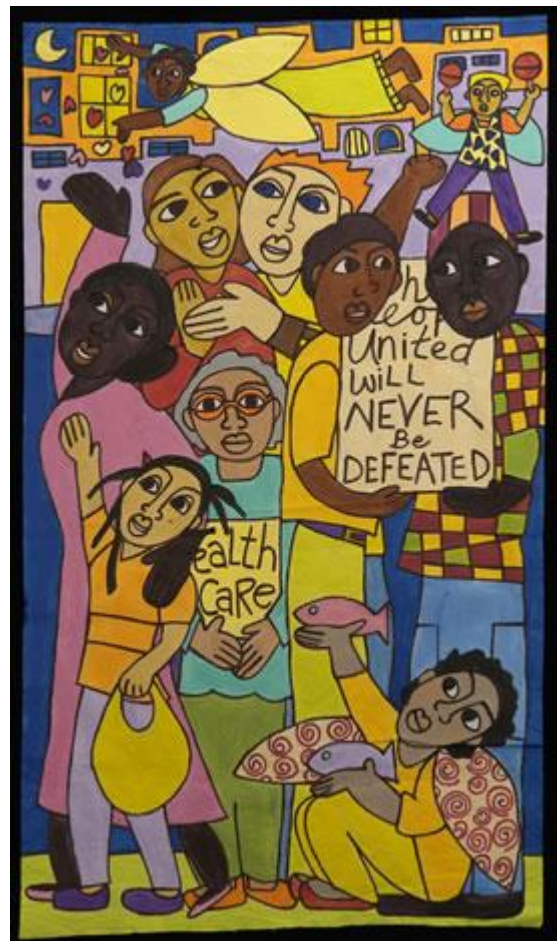
so we pray:

Lord, bring new life where we are worn and  
tired;

new love where we have become hard-  
hearted;

forgiveness where we feel hurt or where we  
have wounded;

and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit  
where we are prisoners of ourselves. Amen.



### **Easter Intercessions**

Leader: Jesus, we long to see you this day  
and every day.

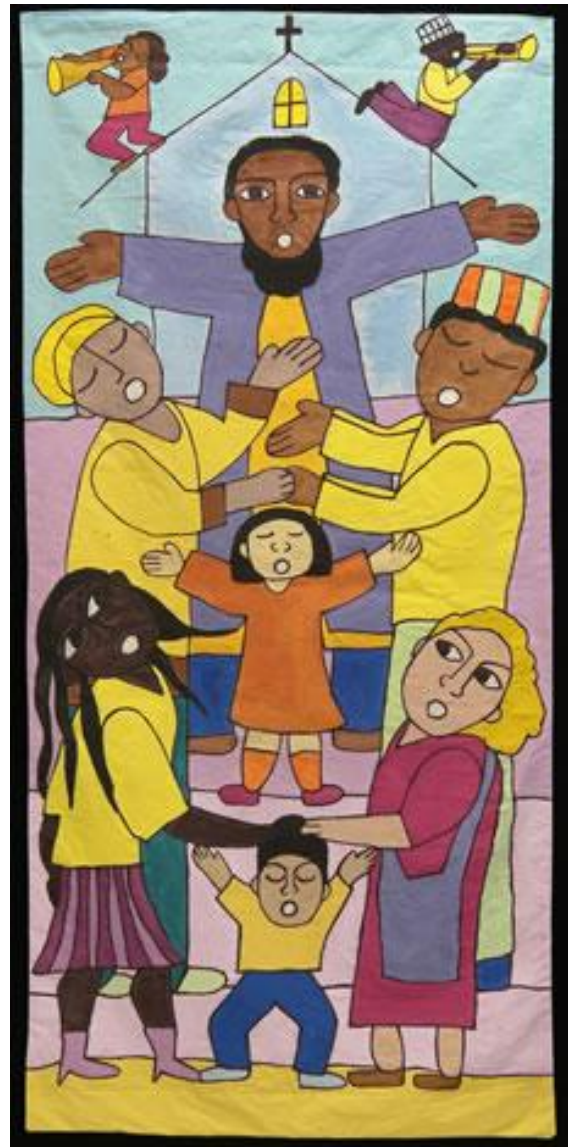
As we wonder at your resurrection,  
at the hope you have given us,  
we remember  
the appearances you made to those close to  
you,  
and we pray that our eyes, too,  
may be opened to your presence.

Women: We think of Mary and the other  
women,  
who loved you so much  
and took such risks to be close to you.  
We think of how you recognised their need  
to hear your messenger tell them  
that you were alive.  
We bring before you  
those we know to be in special need at this  
time –  
those who are sick lonely and afraid.  
Embrace them with your love and presence.  
Be close to them.

Men: We think of the friends,  
who walked their lonely road to Emmaus,  
a journey of sadness  
after all the events of Holy Week.  
Yet you walked beside them  
and shared with them –  
opening their eyes to your presence  
in the breaking of the bread at supper.  
Journey alongside all those who are sad and  
mourning over losses.  
Embrace them with your love and presence.  
Be close to them.

All: Open our eyes, Jesus.  
We long to see you and be near you when  
we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be  
thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be  
done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this  
day our daily bread. And forgive us our  
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass  
against us. And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the  
kingdom, the power and the glory, forever  
and ever. Amen.



### **Easter Blessing**

We are the children of the Easter sun,  
who write in the shadows of evening,  
who walk in the dark of the night,  
who arise in the light of the dawn,  
who go barefoot in the womb of the world,  
who sow the field,  
who grow the daily bread,  
who know the language of the wind,  
who see the rain fall on a parched land and  
on tired faces,  
who plough the furrows of the old,  
who bring the bones to bloom,  
who break the chains and discover the way.  
May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all, evermore. Amen.