

## Questions for reflection

How does this image speak of joy?

What does the word 'joy' mean to you?

How do you share the joy of Easter?



Live your faith:

Start a diary of joy this week. Remember, record and share these moments or events with others.

### A prayer of adoration

Risen Lord Jesus, we adore you and praise your name.  
Today you defeated death and rose again.  
You died on the cross that we might be free.  
Thank you, risen Lord, that you did this for us,  
so that we might enjoy the freedom of eternal life.  
Risen Lord Jesus, we love you, we worship you, we adore you.  
Amen.

### A prayer for others

God of grace,  
we bring before you those who have no joy and no hope,  
those who see no future, no light at the end of the tunnel,  
those scarred by pain and sadness, those who grieve.  
We pray for those yet to hear your good news,  
whether that is because they live in far-flung places,  
or because they are closed to the message and the possibility  
of 'What if?'  
May we be Easter people, willing always to share the good news  
of hope, restoration and freedom to all those we meet –  
neighbours, friends and strangers alike.  
Amen.



## Wesley Methodist Church

Minister: Revd. Josephine Soon 01384 821854 Church Contact: Margaret Kite 01384 392310



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**Weekly Feature – Favourite Hymns** – have used request from Mike & Christine Pearson as an Easter Hymn.

Christ the Lord is ris'n today, *Alleluia!*  
Sons of men and angels say, *Alleluia!*  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, *Alleluia!*  
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply, *Alleluia!*

From Margaret Bradley :- Greetings from all at Overend Methodist Mission, as we celebrate our unity with other Christians at our most important Festivals of Holy Week and Easter. 'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.' (1 Peter 1:3).

Thank you to Kevin for sorting Wesley Website – address  
<https://wesley.valeofstour.org.uk/virtual-church>

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Keep Safe – God Bless

## FROM CIRCUIT

### THOUGHTS TO GUIDE YOU AS YOU PRAY



Concentrate on this image for a moment or two as you allow your breath to slow.

Begin your prayers by focusing your thoughts on the bare cross, considering its emptiness, the starkness of the bare wood against the sky. Reflect on the cross as a form of punishment and thus on what the empty cross means both literally – suffering has been endured and has ended –and personally for you – salvation is yours, Christ suffered and died for **YOU!**

**Acknowledge Christ's gift and give thanks.**

**READ:--John 20: 1-18**

**Now:** “dress” the cross with flowers. You might do this figuratively in your mind's eye or with craft materials create a cross covered in flowers.

For each flower added say a prayer of thanks for a blessing during this weird and wonderful Eastertide, so maybe...

- for your home as a place of safety,
- for key workers who will continue their efforts to care for all, even on Easter day,
- that there is food for all if we are willing to take only what we need,
- for God's presence with us all throughout this difficult time and always,
- for bird song, silence and reduced pollution which can be better appreciated now there's no traffic!

With each prayer of thanks observe the transformation of the bare cross as it comes **ALIVE** with colour.



**Finally** as you look at your creation reflect on its beauty and on the sacrifice Jesus made, that we – God's creation – might live. Look back at the reading from John, the final gospel and the only one where Mary recognises the risen Jesus as the gardener. Reflect on the role of a gardener, and consider why John included this detail? Then seek God's guidance on what message Jesus, the gardener, might have for us **RIGHT** now? *(Illustration – Rembrandt's 1638 depiction of Christ the gardener, recognised by the Magdalene)*