

Prayers 11th April

How very good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity!

Like the blessing of anointing oil may God's blessing upon us spill over that we might know your presence.

As the dew falls on Hermon and the mountains of Zion, so may the grace of God reveal truth and justice, love and life for evermore.

Let us, with saints across the generations, worship the resurrected Lord.

Living God,
if anything we have ever been told about you is true, you are greater than our greatest imagining:
more powerful; more compassionate; more generous; more just.

Whatever we need this morning; or however we come to worship in what should be a joyous season of the year, you are big enough to understand.

If we come in faith or in fear; in joyful certainty or with minds full of questions; you are big enough to cope—
so long as we are honest before you and our prayers are real. So we come in joy and sorrow, in faith and fear, in certainty and doubt but still we come and find you waiting for us. AMEN

On the days when faith comes easily, when all is light and sunshine and hope, you are glad to hear our songs of joyful celebration, even though you know, as we do not,

that the time may well come when our voices crack and our hearts can no longer sing.

And in the days of darkness and doubt, when the solid ground of faith has crumbled beneath our feet, and hope has almost gone, you are every bit as glad to hear our questions and our accusations, even though you know, as we do not, that the time will come when the clouds will lift and our hearts can sing again.

God of Good Friday and Easter morning, and of all the dark Saturdays in-between, we give thanks that there is no part of us you do not know and understand and love.

There is no path we have to take that you have not already travelled; nowhere we can go that you will not be with us.

And so we come to worship this morning, on the far side of Easter, with the signs of springtime slowly appearing in the world around us and we accept there is always dark and light within our lives.

Forgive us when we prefer to remain on crumbling ground of doubt and despair and resentment, rather than take that leap requiring faith onto the solid ground you already prepare for us.

Forgive us when we prefer the darkness of hopelessness and resignation, rather than look for the light of challenge and opportunity.

Forgive us when we choose the easy path which requires no sacrifice or effort, rather than the harder road where you will accompany us with strength and wisdom.

Forgive us for seeking your image in our own imagination and preference, rather than finding it in the faces of those we would prefer to ignore.

And in our darkness, our crumbling ground, our hopelessness and despair – find us again. Take our hands as we make that leap. Give us

light to find the path you would have us walk. Grant us courage to see your image in those you bring into our lives. And take us as we are as even now you begin your work to make us as you would have us be. And as Easter people together we say – Our Father

With our doubts alleviated, our fears subsided
and our hopes revived, let us go in peace to love and to serve the
risen Lord!

And may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you, those you love,
and those you struggle