



Easter 3 5 May 2019



Call to Worship – Which Way to Go? *(words on back page)

Welcome and Notices

Words from Psalm 30

Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes in the morning...
You have turned my mourning
into dancing,
you have taken off my sackcloth
and clothed me with joy,
so that my soul may praise you
and not be silent.



HYMN No one can tell what life will bring (tune Coe Fen at #128)

No one can tell what life will bring: what troubles, what delight;
what friends and joys might heal and bless, what pains and failures blight.
Yet as you call us to your side, to follow you each day,
our wand' rings must at last find peace, a place to stop and stay.

Like feisty Peter, we may joy to follow and obey,
but in some crisis, sorely-pressed, may fail and flee away.
What hope and comfort, then, to read of Peter's welcome back –
His call, once more, to learn and grow, whilst love makes good his lack.

Like mother Mary, risking all to bear the gift God's giv'n,
we, too, may ache with grief and pain and wonder why we've striv'n.
What help to watch her stay and care through shame, through death and grief,
'til resurrection, hope and joy; bring rich and full relief.

So, though our road through life be steep and dangerous withal,
and we but doubtful followers uncertain of your call,
with Mary, faithful, holding on, and Peter lost and found,
may we be kept through Jesus' love to share your gifts around.

Prayer based on Psalm 30

Sing praises to the LORD,

and give thanks to God's holy name

for the LORD our God has healed us

when we cried for help

and restored us

in times of deepest despair.

The LORD has turned our sorrow into dancing;

taken our sackcloth from us, and clothed us with joy.

Sing to the LORD without end,

and give thanks to the LORD for ever.

Eternal and ever present God,

sustain and excite our gathered community;

arouse our expectancy;

subdue our expectations.

Come, silent Spirit, and embrace us.

Let the words we see and hear and speak and sing

be transformed by the Word made flesh,

that our worship may be wholly yours, Lord God.

We pray in the name of the risen Christ. Amen

Hymn Fear, failure and dismay (Tune Down Ampney at #489)

Fear, failure and dismay looked set to claim the day,

yet hope itself here shouldered our dejection; this empty, undone tomb

somehow became the womb that birthed a people, sharing resurrection.

Back then, in Galilee, Jesus was found to be

alive in ev'ry fear-defying action; each time believers shared,

stood up and showed they cared, the living Jesus shared his resurrection.

Still, when a grey despair hangs heavy in the air

and justice feels a cruel, dreamed distraction, what started at that tomb

can still make living room for hope and healing, working resurrection.

Called to engage and share with people ev'rywhere,

and birth communities of love in action, may we delight to see

new hope midwifery, and spend ourselves in sharing resurrection.

John 21:1-9

someone else will...take you where you do not wish to go

REFLECTION

Where are you now?



Image used under Creative Commons The sculpture "Map" by Aram Sarraf © by Aram Sarraf - <http://bit.ly/2DCKghv>

Music for reflection – 'Emmanuel' Chris Botti

**The cure for anything is salt water -- sweat, tears, or the sea.
Isak Dinesen (pen name of Karen Blixen), author (17 Apr 1885-1962)**



*** Standing here wondering which way to go – sung by Mahalia Jackson**

**Standing here wondering which way to go
So much confusion in this world below
I've been suffering, I've been driven
From door to door
Standing here wondering, wondering
Wondering which way to go
The road lies in darkness
Lights down low
Where will it lead us?
No one seems to know
Well, there may be destruction
And it worries me so
Well, Lord, if you know me
Come on and show me, Lord
Which way to go**