*Please use this material at the time you would normally be in church on Sunday.*

*Today you might like to sit in your garden*

*You may like to begin by lighting a candle.*

*Read these words*

**Ah my dear Lord, the church is locked**

**But let my heart be open to your presence;**

**There let us make, you and I,**

**Your Easter garden;**

**Plant it with flowers,**

**And let the heavy stone be rolled away.**

Alan Amos

*Read or sing these words.*

*If you have internet, you can click on this link*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9khJXoL9QGk>

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

**Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died, our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!**

**Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!**

*Read this excerpt from “The Secret Garden” by France Hodgson Burnett*

**One of the strange things about living in the world is that it is only now and then one is** **quite sure one is going to live for ever and ever and ever. One knows it sometimes when one gets up at the tender, solemn dawn-time and goes out and stands alone and throws one’s head far back and looks up and up and watches the pale sky slowly changing and flushing and marvellous unknown things happening until the East almost makes one cry out and one’s heart stands still at the strange, unchanging majesty of the rising of the sun—which has been happening every morning for thousands and thousands and thousands of years. One knows it then for a moment or so. And one knows it sometimes when one stands by oneself in a wood at sunset and the mysterious deep gold stillness slanting through and under the branches seems to be saying slowly again and again something one cannot quite hear, however much one tries. Then sometimes the immense quiet of the dark-blue at night with millions of stars waiting and watching makes one sure; and sometimes a sound of far-off music makes it true; and sometimes a look in someone’s eyes.**

*When have you felt “quite sure one is going to live for ever and ever and ever”? Thank God for those experiences.*

*Read or sing these words:*

*If you have internet, you can click on this link*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-5Bi2jM40E>

**Now the green blade rises, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again,**

**like wheat that springs up green.**

**In the grave they laid Him, Love who had been slain,
Thinking that He never would awake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again,**

**like wheat that springs up green.**

**Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for the three days in the grave had lain;
Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again**

**like wheat that springs up green.**

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
then your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again,**

**like wheat that springs up green.**

**

*Read John 20:1-18.*

*Spend some time reflecting on the following:*

*How does Mary’s experience relate to yours?*

*Notice that she is on her own. In the other Gospels several women come to the tomb together. What difference does it make to experience Easter morning in isolation?*

*She has people she can call on. Peter and the other disciple come running. Who are those people in your life?*

*She is weeping. What has made you cry recently?*

*She wants to hold on to Jesus. Who are you longing to embrace?*

*Later today you might want to telephone someone from your church and talk about these questions with them.*



*Here are some suggestions for your prayers:*

For our church and parish and for all who are celebrating Easter at home this year…

For all who are weeping because someone they love has died…

For all who are running to help those who are in need or distress…

For our Government and all who are responsible for communicating important news…

For all who are unwell and for all who work in the health service…

For those who have no gardens or can’t go out and are stuck indoors….

The Lord’s Prayer

*Read or sing these words.*

*If you have internet, you can click on this link*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPjTfw4a2ZE>

**Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son:
endless is the vict'ry thou o’er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.**

**Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o’er death hast won.**

**Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.**

**Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o’er death hast won.**

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors, thro' thy deathless love:
bring us safe thro' Jordan to thy home above.**

**Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o’er death hast won.**

*………………………………………………………………………………..*

If you have internet, here are some extra resources to help you celebrate and reflect on the gift of Easter:

**Films**

*The Secret Garden*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_ixyklEsok>

**Music**

*See what a morning* by Stuart Townend

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xM-fpXayUg>

Easter Hymn from *Cavalleria Rusticana*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJO4hSpfCZU>

*Alleluia* by Mozart

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvRI8MD7moU>