



# HOLY WEEK AT HOME

## All Age Easter Vigil at home

*This vigil can be used as a personal or family act of worship. It aims to help you experience and acknowledge the dark and then to welcome the Light of Christ in to your home and life this Easter. Plan to do this as night falls on Easter Saturday.*

### *Preparation.*

*For this act of worship you will need tealight candles (at least one for each person taking part), a large candle, matches/lighter and a bible. You may also like to have a torch to hand. If children are present, you might like to have some 'percussion instruments' (improvised instruments such as a saucepans and spoons are fine!) and some treats to mark the end of Lenten fasting. If you're able to print this document, you will avoid the need to use an electronic screen with its distracting light. Make your room as dark as possible, closing curtains and turning off lights.*

*If you are not alone, you might like to allocate one person as the reader and encourage others to join in the simple responses (**Amen**; **The Light of Christ: Thanks be to God**; **Alleluia: Alleluia**).*

*Sit in the darkness for a few moments. Relax your body. Take at least six deep slow breaths in and out. Each time you breathe in, imagine yourself drawing closer to God in the darkness. Be still.*

*Read the following verse from Genesis. If you need illumination, try to keep light to a minimum perhaps using a shaded torch.*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'let there be light'; and there was light. *Genesis 1.1*

*Light one of the tealights (or switch on the torch) to use as a reading light.*

Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils or dangers of this night, for the love of your only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

In our homes this evening, we remember with Christians throughout the world, that this is the night in which Jesus passed over from death to life.

As we await the risen Christ, let us remember God's saving deeds in history, recalling how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer. Let us pray that through this Easter celebration, God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

*Take a few moments to recall our faith story from the Old Testament. You might like to remember Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Isaac, Moses leading the Israelites.*

Eternal God, who made this holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: set us alight with the flame of your love, and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

*Light the large candle.*

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

*If it's safe to do so, an adult holds and raises the large candle and announces*

The Light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

Light lots of tealight candles from the large candle so that your room is awash with candle light. Give at least one to each person.

As each person receives their lit candle, they might like to say

The Light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Take a few moments to enjoy the light from the candle flames around you. Welcome the light as a symbol of welcoming the risen Jesus, the Light of the World, into your home and life.*

*Place the large candle safely in the middle of a table or the room.*

*Read*

Matthew 28. 1-10

Christ is risen.

Alleluia, **Alleluia.**

We are Easter people.

Alleluia, **Alleluia**

*At this point you might like to make a glorious noise with percussion instruments and/or sing a familiar hymn, verse or song eg*

*Alleluia, Alleluia give thanks to our risen Lord or Shine Jesus Shine.*

Lord God, giver of life and hope, through the glorious resurrection of your Son, death is defeated and you have opened for us the way to everlasting life.

Grant that we may know Jesus, the power of his resurrection and fullness of life which is eternal.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen**

May we trust the risen Lord as our light in times of darkness, a present help in times of trouble and a companion in this life and the next.

May God's blessing be upon us, our home and all our loved ones this Easter and always.

**Amen**

*You may now like to end your Lenten fast. Eat and enjoy plenty of treats amidst the light!*

*The large candle can become your Easter candle. Light it at prayer times and meal times to remind you of Christ's illuminating presence in your life.*