

## Candle Prayers on Resurrection Day.

4 April 2021

Loving God, we gather this morning, different faces in different places, united by our desire to know you, to follow you faithfully and love you completely. We awake to the news of your resurrection, a clear pronouncement to the powers of evil and darkness that death shall not have the last word, that light shall triumph over dark, that love shall eclipse fear and that good shall overcome evil.

Yet sometimes it is hard to believe oh God. Sometimes we struggle to fathom how good will overcome evil. Sometimes the powers of death go beyond what our minds can grasp - so this morning we pray for this world. We pray for the violence to cease. We pray for justice to roll down like a river that never runs dry - in this world - there will be enough for all to eat, women can walk freely and be safe in their homes and no violence will be visited on any of your people. We pray for the sickness to be healed and the grief to end.

But Lord God, we also struggle with our own participation in the evil in this world, our complicity with the powers of evil, our direct and inadvertent collaboration with the powers of death. Some of us hold on to and protect our privilege gifted to us by how systems of this world work. We are content to let the systems do the sinning for us, while we reap the benefits.

We kill, no we crucify, no we execute our fellow human beings. We are content, or don't rage against systems that take necessities from the poor to give luxuries to the rich. We benefit from systems that inflict violence upon the vulnerable - and oh Lord, sometimes we ourselves inflict violence by our silence - silence in the world where kids go to bed hungry and their parents watch helplessly, silence in the face of naked greed - our carelessness and our callousness leaves many trapped in tombs of poverty and ultimate death.

So this morning we pray that the new dawn of your resurrection shall extend across our dark world. We pray that love, light and life shall be the way of the world.

And then we pray for everyone who believes - help our unbelief! While we were yet sinners, trapped in death-dealing ways you died for us. May your resurrection mean something to us and for us today. Resurrect us from the death of feeling, our numbness, let your resurrecting love touch us in our places of failure, open our eyes to your creation, open our eyes to the beauty, yes, even the beauty of our enemies, let your death and resurrection be a moment that gives us reason to pause, to reflect and to remember, remember that - we are created in love by love for love. Roll the stone away from the tombs of our fear and fill our hearts with love - love that dares to confront and contradict the powers of violence and death and injustice.

Oh Lord Jesus, we pray that your death and resurrection will change this world - but please Lord, begin with US.

Amen