

# Opening Prayers for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

## April 19, 2020

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### **Call to Worship (1 Peter 1: 3)**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

### **Prayer of Approach and Confession**

God of all glory,

on this first day of the week you began creation, bringing light out of darkness.

On this first day you began your new creation, raising Jesus Christ out of the darkness of death.

On this Lord's day grant that we, the people you create by water and the Spirit may be joined with all your works in praising you for your great glory.

### **Merciful God,**

In this year's Easter season we remember the glory of the sound of trumpet, organ, and triumphant singing as we gathered together in our churches in Easters past.

We remember too the joy of children hunting for eggs and treasure, and extended family gathered around the table to share a festive meal.

To us getting connected through the internet, though wonderful in itself, seems pale in comparison to our memories.

We confess that in our grief for what we have lost in recent days

of staying home and not coming close to our neighbours,  
we have not had ears to hear afresh the good news that Jesus is risen,  
or to believe that he is ready even now to make every shadow flee affrighted away.  
We have not sought as we ought, opportunities to support others  
who are wearied, or frightened, or sad.  
We have taken on guilt for things we cannot change,  
And blamed others for things too powerful even for them to change.  
Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.  
O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us,  
and give us your peace. Amen.

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

While it is true that we have sinned,  
it is a greater truth that we are forgiven  
through God's love in Jesus Christ.  
To all who humbly seek the mercy of God, know this:  
In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God.