



St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church

11th April 2021 – Easter 2

Church in the Garden

Stories of the Resurrection

Service sheet for home use

This morning we will be trying our first outdoor service. If you can't join us there will be an online service but with a different format to our traditional one. You are invited to join in in a similar way to the people in the church garden; this might take you through the whole week. Our service moves through a number of the resurrection appearances of Jesus

Easter Garden

Reading: John 20 1-2, 11-18

Hymn: Walking in a garden

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we give you our thanks and praise, for the love that you showed to Mary when she was weeping and in despair. Bring us hope in our troubles and joy out of sadness. Amen

Activity: Make an Easter garden on a plate at home, or go into your garden or a park. Look at and listen to the signs of spring and be thankful for God's continuing work of creation.

Jesus breathes on the disciples in the upper room

Reading: John 20 19 - 23

Hymn: Breathe on me breath of God

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we give you our thanks and praise, for the comfort that you brought to your friends. You breathed on them and put courage into them. May we find that same courage and peace, especially when we are afraid and anxious, knowing that your love for us will never die. Amen

Activity: In the garden we will be blowing bubbles and marvelling at their colours. In the original language of the Gospels, the word for spirit, breath and wind is the same. Imagine Jesus' warm breath on your cheek. Listen to your own breathing. If you have some, blow some bubbles at home

The road to Emmaus

Reading: Luke 24 13 – 19 and 25 - 31

Hymn: Now the green blade riseth

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we give you our thanks and praise, for the way you walked with your sorrowful friends and helped them to see what God was doing. Help us to make sense of times when we are sad or troubled, and reveal yourself to us in the breaking of bread, and shared hospitality. Amen

Activity: In the garden, we will be walking a labyrinth on the grass. It will still be there if you want to visit the garden during the week. Or you can trace a labyrinth prayerfully with your finger (see attached sheet), or walk very slowly

round your room, barefoot if it is safe to do so, thinking about the journey of the two disciples. At the centre of the labyrinth in the garden is a loaf of bread. We invite you to tear a piece off a loaf and eat it slowly, really tasting it, and thinking about how the sharing of a meal shows us who Jesus is. Here is a lovely Grace you might like to use before meals: Come Lord Jesus, and be our guest, and bless everything that you have given us. Amen.

Jesus appears at the lakeside

Reading: John 21 1 - 13

Hymn: Good Christians all, rejoice and sing

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we give you our thanks and praise, for the way you fed your friends and cheered them up Whenever we share food together help us be aware of your loving presence with us. Amen

Activity: Warm yourself in front of a fire, or radiator, or even a bonfire/ barbeque in the garden. Imagine being on the lakeshore and seeing Jesus, your friend, again. Think about how it would feel, sharing breakfast as the sun rises over the water.

Prayer tree

Activity: this is a place for you to make your own prayers.

We will be hanging labels with our prayers on a tree to be blessed by the sun and rain. You might like to do something similar in a garden, or put labels up on a board or another place in your house, where they will catch your eye.

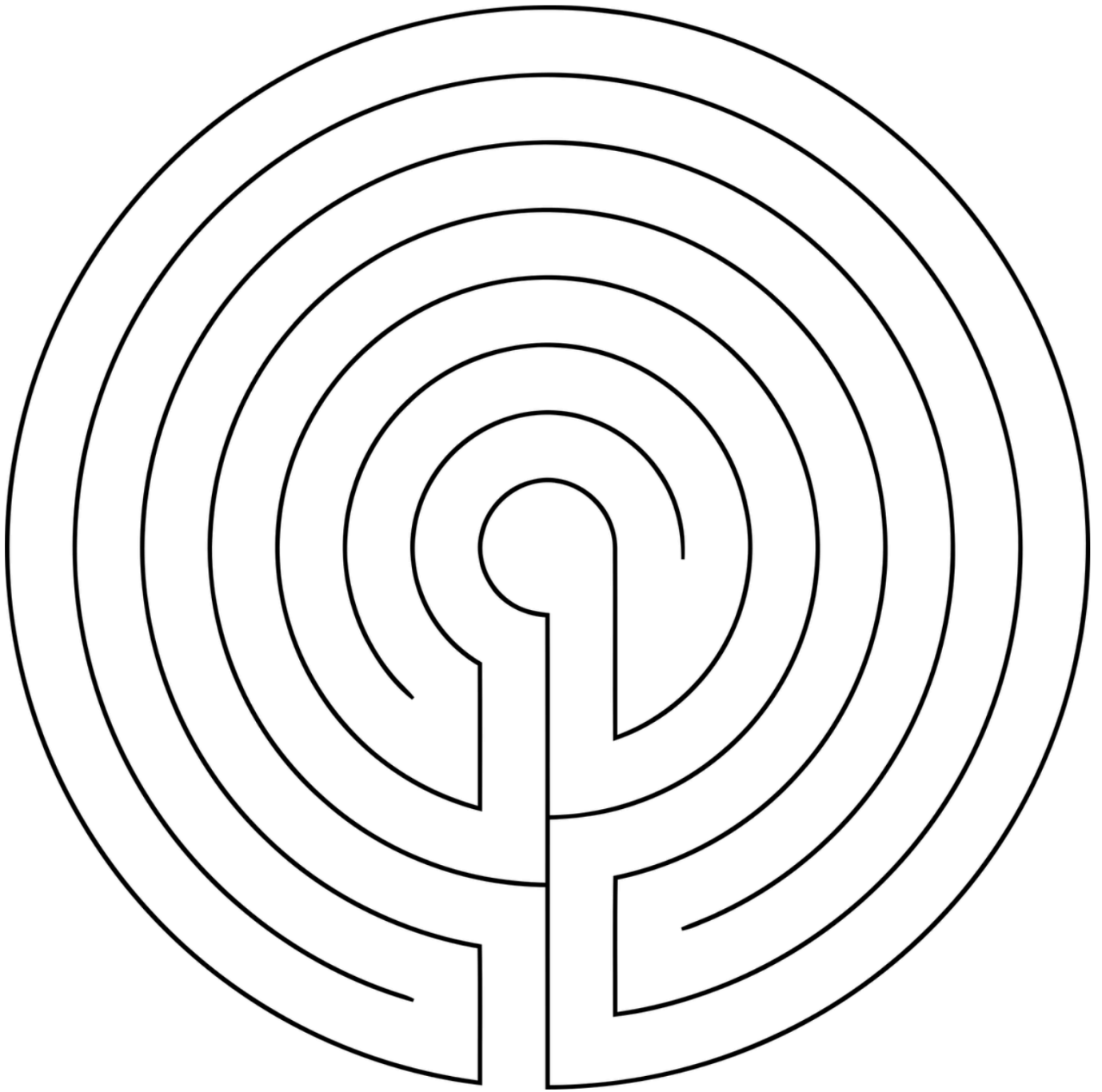
Tell all the world

Reading: Matthew 28 16-20

Hymn: Jesus Christ is risen today

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we give you our thanks and praise, for the way you told us to go out into all the world to share the good news of the Gospel. Help us to share our Easter joy with the world, bringing joy and justice in all our actions . Amen

Activity: Share something of Easter with your neighbours, with a picture in your window, or a card through their door, or a cheerful message to someone, or a gift to charity.



You may like to use this labyrinth when we come to the reflective part of our service. You can download this, and other 'finger' labyrinths from this website:

<https://shepherdscorner.org/2020/03/25/finger-labyrinths-for-meditation/>