

## **DIAKONIA Monthly Prayer April 2021**

Easter this year falls on April 4, for those of us who use the Gregorian calendar. After more than a year of pandemic, teamed with the sorrows and suffering of racism, on-going gender-based violence, persistent environmental apathy, and a myriad of other ills and injuries, we are ready for resurrection. May the Easter appearance stories offer us hope.

*“When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large was rolled back.” Mark 16: 4*

You, Resurrection God, roll away stones of injustice and inequality.

You, Risen Christ, empty tombs of grief and loss.

You, Lord of the Dance, want us to be your Easter people.

May we recognize your renewing presence in our work, our lives, and our loves.

*“Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and My God’.” John 20: 28*

Christ who said, “Peace be with you.”

grant us stillness of spirit.

Jesus who said, “As I was sent, so I send you.”

send us out in compassion, courage, and justice-making.

Holy One who said, “Do not doubt but believe.”

may we be your hands and feet in this weary world.

*“So they cast the net on the other side,  
and now they were able to haul it in because there were so many fish.” John 21: 6*

You, O Christ, are the Easter abundance of life.

Where there is

isolation and indifference,

abandonment and alienation,

longing and loneliness,

fill the emptiness with life and love.

*“Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.” Luke 24: 31a*

Like the travelers walking on the Emmaus Road,

send us into the world with opened eyes.

Like a woman running with the good news of the empty tomb,

bless our lives with joy.

Like the Upper Room disciples receiving the Spirit,

grant our relationships peace.

Like Thomas, filled with doubt,

fill your church with faith.

Like the fishers pulling empty nets,

teach us to live with abundance of life.

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