

Easter 3 Year A 2020

Alison Kershaw

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 ; Ps 116: 1-4, 12-19 (11-18); 1 Peter 1: 17-23 (13-25 St P) ; Luke 24: 13-35

Stay Risen Christ ; stay within our burning hearts

Present before the foundation of the earth, at play in its creation, arising each morning from the tomb of night – you make our hearts to burn with life and energy.

We give thanks for cooling rain over parched earth, and the emergence of green shoots.

Open our eyes to all that dies in its season and to all that is born anew in every moment.

Stay Risen Christ ; stay within our burning hearts

Present with all who suffer violence and exile, at work in every struggle for freedom and peace, arising in each generation from the ashes of the past – you make our hearts to burn with hope.

We pray for the healing of nations and the healing of the planet. Give strength, resilience and hope to those battling the coronavirus, and wisdom to leaders and advisors in this time of great change and challenge.

Open our eyes to the promise that is made for us, and for our children, and for all people.

Stay Risen Christ ; stay within our burning hearts

Present in the breaking of the bread, active in the kernel of every grain gathered from the ends of the earth, arising in each prayer we utter – you make our hearts to burn with thanksgiving.

Open our eyes to the wisdom of the scriptures, to the passion of the early church, to the gifts of all who make up our community in this place, and to the power of our own baptism.

Stay Risen Christ ; stay within our burning hearts

Present to each one of us, speaking in every dilemma and struggle of the heart, born anew from the darkness of despair – you make our hearts to burn with love.

We pray for one another – for those struggling in their relationships ; those feeling especially lonely and depressed in this time of distancing ; for those who are ill or worried for the well-being of loved ones. Grant us all your peace, and instill in us a thankful heart.

Open our eyes to what we cannot see ; to your truth spoken in our souls ; to what we truly feel in ourselves, and for each other. Loosen the snares of our minds so we may speak openly and break bread with strangers on the road, so we may recognise those bewildering moments of genuine mutual love, and welcome them, and rejoice in them, and love one another deeply from the heart.

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