

Easter 2 Year A

Psalm 16

Opening Prayer

Risen Christ,
You come and stand among us,
speaking peace into our fear
and hope into our uncertainty.
As we gather, open our hearts to Your presence,
open our lives to Your word,
and lead us into the fullness of life
You offer in Your name.
Amen.

12 April 2026 - Second Sunday of Easter – Year A | The Church of Scotland

Hymn: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

*Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!*

*All Your works with joy surround You,
Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,
Stars and angels sing around You,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Praising You eternally!*

*Always giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Loving Father, Christ our Brother,
Let Your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.*

Henry Van Dyke

Window of Wonder

A brief biography of poet & writer
Henry Van Dyke

Creative response:

You may like to memorise these words from Psalm 16 as a prayer..

“You make known to me
the path of life;
you will fill me with joy
in your presence,
with eternal pleasures
at your right hand.”

Closing Prayer

*Go in peace,
held in the love of God,
renewed by the risen Christ,
and led by the breath of the Holy Spirit.
Walk in the path of life,
live in resurrection hope,
and may your joy be made full.
Amen.*

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Devotion - Fullness of Joy

(Psalm 16)

As a follow on from our devotion about Jesus’ resurrection, we turn now to Psalm 16, which both Peter and Paul applied to the resurrection of Jesus Christ in the book of Acts.

But this Psalm was originally composed by King David of old, and spoke of his own faith, and situation in life, as this led to future security and blessing. Let us now trace something of David’s path to fullness of joy in this Psalm. The Psalm could take its title and theme from the opening line of the final verse 11, “You show me the Path to Life.” What a glorious thought as we continue this Easter series. Let us then briefly trace this thought throughout the Psalm in its three sections.

First, in verses 1-4, the Psalmist feels that he is in a dangerous position, in which he needs protection that can only be found in God to whom he flees for refuge within the sanctuary. This is expressed in verse 2: I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing." This thought is then echoed throughout the Psalm in many different ways, as a key theme.

The Psalmist is encouraged and supported by the saints or holy ones in the land, who are faithful and dedicated and do not give offerings and worship to other gods. This is supported at Psalm 24:3-6 where those with clean hands and pure hearts are those who do not trust in an idol, or swear by a false god. They will receive blessing and vindication from God their Saviour.

From the beginning, the Psalmist sees himself as belonging to the Lord. As God's servant, he receives all good things from Him. Throughout the psalm, it is clear that the Lord fills his whole life. Each line shows that the Lord is everything to him—his God, guide, future, and security. In short, the Psalmist declares, "The Lord is my life." Because he trusts God as his foundation, he can face life with confidence.

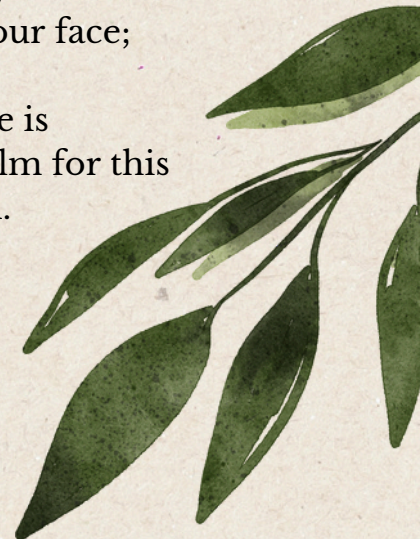
Then as we move on to the middle section at verses 5-8, the opening confession of verse 2, "Apart from you I have no good thing" is echoed in the psalm's description of the Lord as the Psalmist's portion and cup, his secure lot, and the boundary lines that fall in pleasant places—images drawn from the Old Testament's land theology that express a good and delightful inheritance. This leads to praise of the Lord, and firm focus on Him.

Finally, in verses 9-11, The Psalmist's body can rest safely because the Lord will not abandon him to death, answering his opening cry in verse 1. For in the thought world of the Psalms, a person could no longer relate to God once they had died and the Lord has many good things still in store for the Psalmist, including the present blessing of showing him the path of life through God's word and guidance.

The psalmist reminds us that there is no greater joy than living in God's presence and will, which leads to abundant life in the present as Jesus says in John 10:10, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." And also leads to blessings of a future life with God, suggested by Psalm 17:15, which says – "As for me, I will be vindicated and will see your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness."

The Psalm is full of joy in the Lord. Life and joy go together. Life is consummated in joy. May we experience the blessing of this Psalm for this present time, as well as for God's eternity prepared for us. Amen.

Rev Dr Ted Woods.





Creative Response:

You may like to memorise these words from Psalm 16 as a prayer..

“You make known to me
the path of life;
you will fill me with joy
in your presence,
with eternal pleasures
at your right hand.”

Psalm 16:11