

COMMENT: HYMN - RISEN CHRIST

I rarely write new words for new music, but generally prefer to 'marry' new words to Christian tunes which are already hallowed by use and convey, even unconsciously, the message of words already associated with them. So I deliberately wrote this hymn to Stainer's '**Cross of Jesus**'.

Its verses are based very precisely on the details of the story of **Christ's Resurrection appearance in the Upper Room**. [John 20:19-23].

I chose the 'Cross of Jesus' tune because the disciples recognise Jesus not by his risen glory, but by the indications of his **Passion**. I felt that the singing of that tune, from Stainer's *Crucifixion*, would reinforce the Cross-Resurrection link which we now celebrate on two separate days, but which earlier Christians always celebrated together.

The hymn is, of course, particularly apt for Easter and Eastertide.

Because the event was one of fear *transformed*, the hymn has a strong **healing** content. It could well be used in various healing contexts outside of Eastertide—not least because every gathering of Christians has promised at it the Risen Christ.

HYMN: RISEN CHRIST

Suggested tune, 'Cross of Jesus' (J.Stainer), 8.7.8.7.

1.

**Risen Jesus, we are gathered
here to worship in your Name;
come among us as you promised,
stand amid our fear and shame.**

2.

**Risen Jesus, heal our sorrows,
from our fears and doubts release;
to our restlessness and turmoil,
speak your healing word of peace.**

3.

**Risen Lord, God's love displaying
in your body crucified;
in our deepest pains and darkness,
show again your hands and side.**

4.

**Risen Lord, we see with gladness
signs of our salvation sealed!
Praise you for your cross and passion,
and the wounds by which we're healed!**

5.

**Risen Christ, sent by your Father,
Spirit-filled to do his will;
you send forth your church in mission,
and command your servants still.**

6.

**Risen Christ, breathe freshly on us
in this resurrection hour.
Holy Spirit, now equip us
with authority and power.**

7.

**Glory be to God the Father,
raising up his crucified.
By his mighty Holy Spirit,
Jesus reigns – now glorified!**