

For everything there is a season - Ecclesiastes 3

Follow Kate Larrick, teen graphic designer behind the 'Arise' theme image, on Instagram: [@KateLarrick](https://www.instagram.com/KateLarrick)

AN INVITATION TO ARISE

Dear Reader,

As we reflect on the last year and what may come next, we are reminded that **resurrection can be found everywhere**. It doesn't just happen once, but is always happening, and is always needed. As we see through the sustained movements of the sun and other celestial bodies, "rising" is constantly happening, but witnessing it is relative to one's own perspective and vantage point.

After a year of feeling stuck, our world is starting to experience a little hope again with a more comprehensive vaccine rollout. As we move toward ways to safely begin gathering in person, we will have new opportunities to improve access and equity across communities with varying needs. We have hope that **together, we can 'Arise' in solidarity**.

Just as Jesus' resurrection allows us to imagine a transformed world after – and amidst – hardship, it also empowers us to enact change, **bringing about the world we hope for**. Join us this summer as we 'Arise' to everything that awaits us in community together!

With compassion for the journey,

SSP's 2021 Program Planning Team,
Summer and Headquarters Staff,
and Board of Directors

SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT'S MISSION

"Build faith and strengthen communities through service to others."



WHAT WE BELIEVE

GRACE

At SSP, we know God to be a giver of wonderful gifts. We believe each person receives God's grace freely, and seek to extend that grace without condition to everyone we meet.

SERVICE

We practice selfless service, following the example of Jesus Christ. We believe every person is valued and carefully fashioned in God's image, worthy of love.

COMMUNITY

We believe that connecting in community invites us to open ourselves to the possibility of a transformational experience. Together, we open ourselves to grow and be led by the Spirit.

INCLUSION STATEMENT

SSP is an affirming and welcoming community that celebrates the lives and love of all people. We welcome LGBTQ+ individuals and people of color who have too often been excluded from leadership and full participation within traditional communities of faith. We are rooted in the unique experiences and identities of all members of our community, which form the foundation of our work.

As people of faith, we strive to live in tandem with creation, rather than in opposition to it. To do so means welcoming all people to be a part of our community as their authentic selves, regardless of race, socio-economic status, gender and its expression, sexual orientation, or ability. Our passion for justice, love, and equality has no limits. Together we seek to be bearers of goodness, so we might truly open minds, hearts, and doors.

PARTNER COMMUNITIES & ADVOCACY

SSP is committed to long-standing relationships with our partner communities, and are empowered by the unique ways we've found to serve with our neighbors across these locations. In place of our typical hands-on service work, our partners are identifying how SSP participants can remotely support the ongoing local efforts in these regions. Each community is represented by a member of SSP's inaugural Community Advisory Council, whose purpose is to guide decision-making and strengthen relationships so we can be more inclusive and intentional partners.

We hope you take the time to connect with this advocacy and learn more about the power of service!



Draw a star to locate yourself in relation to our partner communities!

ADVOCATE

Sierra Service Project exists to strengthen connections in and between communities. We will always seek to create space for those not traditionally “invited to the table.” By connecting youth to people with a culture and life experience different from their own, we hope participants will be empowered to partner with these communities as advocates. Advocating with SSP communities will look different for each location - the culture, history, and community of each site range widely! There are, however, a few common threads:

- Food access
- Substandard housing
- Access to services for aging individuals
- Pollution, overfishing, and other environmental injustices
- Many families and individuals living at or below the poverty line

Learn more: SierraServiceProject.org/Advocate

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: Sierra Service Project
Instagram: @SierraServiceProject
Summer 2021 Program: @SSPsummer2021

HASHTAGS

#SierraServiceProject #AriseSSP
#SSP2k21 #CommunityPartnership
#BuildFaith #StrengthenCommunities
#ServeOthers

2021 THEME: ARISE



*“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”
- Ecclesiastes 3:1 (ESV)*

Ecclesiastes 3 tells us **“For everything there is a season...a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted...a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose.”**

We all know what it has looked like to refrain from embracing this last year - and even so, find ourselves entering new seasons each day, week, and month. As we explore what it means to ‘Arise,’ together we **recognize resurrection in ourselves and the world around us.** In doing so, we can embrace the value in every part of a cycle - even the hard parts - and build resilience together. Journey with us, at your own pace, to explore the ‘phases,’ contexts, and transitions that add rhythm to each season of your life.

We invite you to imagine the **potential for transformation to be everywhere and in everything,** witnessing both endings and beginnings as the very world we live in resurrects and takes new shape. Join us on your own unique journey of ‘arising’ within yourself, in your relationship with the divine, and in relation to the communities you are a part of.

How do you envision yourself ‘arising’ into the beginning of a new thing?

CENTERING PRACTICE:

One constant way we see cycles every day is in the rise and fall of our breath. As you go through your week, we invite you to center yourself with Box Breathing:

1. Sit in a comfortable, upright position. Close your eyes if it feels right.
2. Inhale deeply, counting to four, through your nose and into your belly.
3. Hold the inhale for another count of four.
4. Exhale completely through your mouth for a count of four.
5. Hold your breath again for another count of four.
6. Repeat three times, or as much as you need to get centered.

“WHAT’S IN YOUR ORBIT?” INVENTORY

Each day, we will ask ourselves, “**what’s in my orbit?**” Let this be a chance to take an inventory of our mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual states. You might think about this literally or metaphorically. These examples of celestial phenomena can give you some ideas to start:

- Asteroid belt.....*Navigating obstacles, knocked around by life*
- Gravitational pull.....*Weighed down or burdened*
- Lost in space.....*Feeling lost, untethered, or uncertain*
- Black hole.....*Having a hard time, feeling empty*
- Bright stars on the horizon.....*Hopeful about what’s to come*
- Eclipse.....*Experiencing transition*
- Shining star.....*Able to share warmth & hope with others*
- Constellation.....*Feeling connected to & in sync with others*

• _____

• _____

• _____

Write in your own examples and descriptions!

MONDAY / /

“What’s in your orbit?”

Arise WITH

We all carry unique experiences, stories, relationships, and contexts with us, wherever we are. Just as a solar system has thousands of different moving parts, orbits, and centers of gravity, so too do we, individually and as a community.

- Write about your perspective: today, this week, or in life. From your vantage point, how do you see the world?
- Who’s in your orbit? Whose orbits are you a part of?


Where do you find yourself currently in your spiritual journey? How would you name this: exploring the divine, connecting with the universe, drawing near to God, etc.?

“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?” - Psalm 8:3-4 (NRSV)




Throughout this journal, we will invite you to think about cycles: endings, new beginnings, and all the transitions in between. As you begin this journey of reflecting on cycles and what it means to 'Arise,' consider the context you come from and where you are on your journey.

- How are you 'arising' (or not) into this week? What do you hope to center yourself around?



“When it was time, he sat down, all the apostles with him, and said, ‘You’ve no idea how much I have looked forward to eating this Passover meal with you before I enter my time of suffering.’” - Luke 22:14-15 (MSG)

- As Jesus anticipates his suffering on the cross, he finds solace in cherished friends. Who can you invite to journey with you in times of loss or difficulty? In other words, **who arises *with* you?**



“The first service one owes to others in a community involves listening to them. We do God’s work for our [siblings] when we learn to listen to them.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together

TUESDAY _____ / _____ / _____

“What’s in your orbit?”

Arise FROM

*“You have made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting.” - Psalm 104:19 (NRSV)*



Today we are invited to think about death in its many forms: endings, goodbyes, or even physical death. As difficult as it may be, sit with the feelings it may bring up. Recognize how loss shows up in our lives. Consider how to honor what has been, while making room for potential transformation that may be on the other side of an ending.

There are a few different ways stars die - going out with a bang, a beautiful implosion, or fading away without noticing. Sometimes we see the remnants of stars’ light from far away, even though that star has already died.

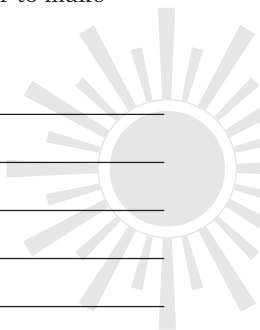
- What is ending in your life right now, or has ended recently, and in what way? Have you been forced to leave anything behind this year?
- Of what you have left behind, do any familiar pieces still remain?



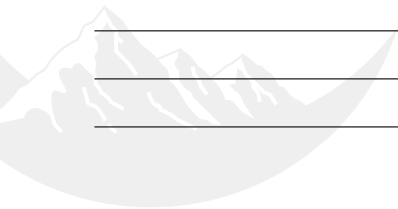
• *“From noon to three, the whole earth was dark. Around mid-afternoon Jesus groaned out of the depths, crying loudly ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?’ [...] Jesus, again, crying out loudly, breathed his last.”*
- Matthew 27:45-50 (MSG)

Death or goodbyes are often talked about as a final conclusion - but through the Resurrection, we are invited to see this less as an ending, and more as an **opportunity for transformation**. Both around us and within ourselves, things are constantly dying or concluding, making room for transformation into something entirely new.

- What in your life feels like it needs to end, in order to make room for something new?



- What can you bring to God that you'd like to see transformed? In other words, **what do you want to arise from?**



WEDNESDAY / /

“What’s in your orbit?”

Arise THROUGH

“...When they saw what actually happened, [they] were overcome with grief and headed home. Those who knew Jesus well...stood at a respectful distance and kept vigil. [...] It was the day before Sabbath, the Sabbath just about to begin. The women who had been companions of Jesus from Galilee followed along. They saw the tomb where Jesus’ body was placed. Then they went back to prepare burial spices and perfumes. They rested quietly on the Sabbath, as commanded.”

- Luke 23:48-49, 54-56 (MSG)

In the midst of transformation, there is waiting, and quiet - often, for longer than we would like. New life does not happen overnight.

- What is something you’ve had to put on pause this year? What are you still awaiting to take place?

- How difficult or easy is it for you to be present during waiting periods?

Think about navigating the space between endings and beginnings. Remember what is being left behind, while anticipating what shape new life may take. In the void of clarity, we learn to patiently await ambiguity, looking ahead in love and hope as we move through endings and loss. Sometimes, we carry both grief and anticipation simultaneously.

- What happens in you when loss, grief, or change overwhelms your typical self-care practices, or way of being in the world?
- What about when the world keeps spinning quickly during times you wish you could slow down?

- What or who do you rely on for comfort in times of waiting - God, family, friends, etc.? In other words, **what helps you arise through these times?**

“But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”
- Romans 8:25 (ESV)




THURSDAY



“What’s in your orbit?”

Arise INTO

Today, reflect on the beginnings of new life, rising into whatever season comes next for your community and yourself. Remember, what we imagine as endings might actually be making room for something completely different and new: a transformation into the next season. Jesus’ story does not end at the crucifixion, and neither do ours.



“And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, ‘Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.’” - Luke 24:2-6a (ESV)

- Think about one ending in your life that led to something new. Was it a transformation? A transition? A resurrection? Draw, write, or doodle your reflections:



Cycles are simultaneous, always happening at different rates and places. As we celebrate new beginnings, we recognize that birth, death, and life all coexist side by side everywhere we look, transforming and blending together in everything. In recognizing this, we can look around and within, intentionally identifying things it may be time for us to let go of.

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NRSV)



- Looking forward, what is something in your life or community you would like to see transformed or given new life? How can you take steps towards making this happen?

- What do you imagine the result of that transformation can be? In other words, **what would you like to arise *into*?**

FRIDAY / /

“What’s in your orbit?”

Arise TOWARD

“Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.’” - John 20:19b-21 (ESV)

As we experience resurrection in its own time, let us recognize where we are called to inspire transformation, enacting change in ourselves and our communities to ‘arise’ toward a better world.

- How are you being called to live as a result of things in and around you being transformed and changed? **What does resurrection compel you to arise *toward*?**

ARISE

Today, we walk into resurrection together, giving shape to the transformation that has been at work within us. As a new thing is at work within us, we can explore what it means to share the good news of this transformation with those in our orbit.

- Think about all the people and things in your orbit you've reflected on throughout this journal. How does transformation that is, or has been, at work within you impact the rest of your orbit?



NOTES & DOODLES

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Lined area for writing notes and doodles, consisting of 20 horizontal lines.

NOTES & DOODLES

_____/_____/_____



ARISE

NOTES & DOODLES





ARISE

NOTES & DOODLES



The word "ARISE" is written in a serif font, positioned in the upper right corner of the page. To its left, there is a graphic element consisting of several concentric, thin lines that form a partial circle, resembling a rising sun or a stylized arc.

ARISE

NOTES & DOODLES



The image features a light gray grid of dots on a white background. In the top right corner, there is a logo consisting of the word "ARISE" in a serif font, positioned above several thin, curved lines that sweep across the top right of the page.

ARISE

SSP SONGBOOK FAVORITES

BEAUTIFUL THINGS LISA & MICHAEL GUNGOR

Verse 1:

All this pain
I wonder if I'll ever find my way
I wonder if I my life could really change at all
All this earth
Could all that is lost ever be found
Could a garden come up from this ground at all

Chorus:

You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

Verse 2: (same as verse 1)

All around
Life is springing up from this old ground
Out of chaos life is being found in You

Chorus 2:

You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

Bridge:

You make me new, You are making me new

LEAN ON ME

BILL WITHERS

Some times in our lives, we all have pain, we all have sorrow
But, if we are wise, we know that there's always to-morrow

Chorus:

Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long till I'm gonna need somebody to lean on
Please swallow your pride, if I have things you need to borrow
For no one can fill those of your needs that you won't let show

Bridge:

Just call on me sibling when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'd understand
We all need somebody to lean on
If there is a load you have to bear that you can't carry
I'm right up the road, I'll share your load, if you just call me

Bridge

Chorus

FRIENDS SONG

I wanna be a friend of yours, mhm, and a little bit more
I wanna be a pal of yours, mhm, and a little bit more
I wanna be a little flower blooming at your door
I wanna be your grandmother, grandfather
Mother, father, sister, brother, mhm, and a little bit more




STAY CONNECTED

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES




- **Days of Service:**
Volunteer days repairing homes in Sacramento
- **Year-Round:**
Weekends of Service and customized Alternative Breaks available by request in Sacramento and San Diego
- **Summer:**
Join us for a week as a youth group, school, family, young adult, or intergenerational team or individual

GROW IN LEADERSHIP

- **Staff-in-Training:**
Week-long opportunity to shadow staff
 - **Summer Staff:**
A summer of service that will change your life
- 

PARTNER WITH US

- **Purchase 'Arise' T-shirts, Journals, & Stickers:**
Available on SSP's online store, proceeds support SSP's mission
 - **12xSSP:**
Donate \$5, \$10, \$20, or more monthly to make a sustaining impact
 - **SSP Board Member:**
Adults, apply to serve on SSP's Board
 - **Youth Advisory Council (YAC):**
Youth, apply to serve on YAC. Three members serve on SSP's Board.
 - **Recruit volunteers:**
Invite your friends and family to learn and serve with you
- 

SierraServiceProject.org