



Welcome to
All Saints
Kings Heath
Your Parish Church
in the Diocese of Birmingham

MORNING PRAYER IN EASTER SEASON

Sunday 11th April 2021

We "gather"

*The service should flow as well with one worshipper as with more. Some words are printed plain and some **bold**. If you are on your own, you can either read all aloud, or read the plain silently and the **bold aloud**. If there are several praying together, you could share out the parts.*

Music: click on the links to hear and join in the music. Click stop at the end of each.

HYMN [This is the day](#) *(click on the links to hear music and readings; press stop at the end of each track)*

1. This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made.
2. This is the day, this is the day
when he rose again, when he rose again;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day when he rose again;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
when he rose again.

3. This is the day, this is the day
when the Spirit came, when the Spirit came;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day when the Spirit came;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
when the Spirit came.

(Les Garrett)

We acclaim: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Give us the joy of your saving help

and sustain us with your life-giving spirit.

We pause, separately in our homes, but united in Christ, to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we find new ways to serve God.

OPENING PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation, to you be praise and glory for ever. As once you ransomed your people from Egypt and led them to freedom in the promised land, so now you have delivered us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your risen Son. May we, the first fruits of your new creation, rejoice in this new day you have made, and praise you for your mighty acts. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

We confess

Jesus says, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is close at hand." So we turn away from our sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

We confess:

**Lord God, we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your
salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessed is the Lord,
for he has heard the voice of our prayer;
Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy
and in our song we will praise our God.

The Word of God

READING [Acts 4:32-35](#) (click [here](#) for text; readings from Jenny Warbrick)

We say PSALM 133

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.

READING [1 John 1:1-2:2](#) (click [here](#) for text)

HYMN [Love's redeeming work is done](#)

1. Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won:
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,
lo, he sets in blood no more.

2. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened paradise.
3. Lives again our glorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave?
4. Soar we now where Christ has led,
foll'wing our exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise;
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.
5. Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
praise to thee by both be giv'n;
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection thou!

(Charles Wesley)

READING [John 20:19-end](#)

CANTICLE [The Easter Anthems](#)

1. Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us:
so let us celebrate the feast,
2. not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
3. Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:
death has no more dominion over him.
4. In dying he died to sin once for all:
in living he lives to God.
5. See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.
6. Christ has been raised from the dead:
the first fruits of those who sleep.
7. For as by man came death:
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;
8. for as in Adam all die:
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

*(words: from 1 Corinthians 5, Romans 6 & 1 Corinthians 15;
chant: Joseph Barnby)*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We stand, if able, and turn to look in the direction of Church, cherishing how God came to be with humankind:

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every other name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow.
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

(From Philippians chapter 2)

We Pray

INTERCESSIONS led by Liz Haskins

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

Jesus wanted to assure the Disciples that he was always near to them. We pray that this closeness will always be felt by His church, and we pray particularly for this reassuring presence to be felt by those for whom it is difficult to practise their faith. As the Disciples were reassured and given strength by it, so may we all have the confidence to do His work. Where there is comforting, God is there.

God of Wisdom, **grant us reassurance.**

The Disciples were to become Apostles, taking out the good news of the love of God into the all the world. We pray for those who day by day quietly continue this work not only in words, but in their deeds. And so we pray for those who provide shelter for the homeless, food for the hungry, particularly in our local Food Bank, safe places for the abused, for prison visitors and hospital visitors, and currently for those volunteers who made the vaccination centres run easily. We pray for all the volunteers who proclaim that nobody is beyond the care of God. Where there is compassion, God is there.

God of Wisdom, **grant us reassurance.**

Jesus was concerned that Thomas should know and understand all that he needed, to take part in the coming work. We pray for those who teach, in our schools, and also in those organisations that bring other opportunities and experiences, for those who provide activities in music, drama and art, and those who offer sports and fitness coaching. May their work be blessed as they equip the young to take a full, worthy and satisfying part in the world in the future. Where there is nourishment, God is there.

God of Wisdom, **grant us reassurance.**

As we pray for the sick and infirm, we remember especially those who find the world around them a bit difficult to understand., those with dementia and special needs in learning, and other mental health challenges. We pray for those who work with them in hospitals, care homes and special facilities, that they be endowed with the compassion, gentleness and good humour that they need. We pray especially for Ian, that God will bless the dedicated work that he does in our Youth Project with Inclusion Plus. Where there is caring, God is there.

God of Wisdom, **grant us reassurance.**

Jesus wanted to reassure the Disciples that death was not the end, but that as He had risen, so would all others. We pray for those who have died, and for those who mourn them, that as the Disciples were glad to have known Jesus, even in their grief and uncertainty, these also may take comfort in their example. May the risen Jesus be near them. Where there is triumph, God is there.

God of Wisdom, **grant us reassurance.**

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

We pray THE COLLECT for the second Sunday of Easter

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification; grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread
and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

ANTHEM

[The love of God comes close](#)

1. The love of God comes close where stands an open door
to let the stranger in, to mingle rich and poor:
the love of God is here to stay, embracing those who walk his way.
2. The peace of God comes close to those caught in the storm,
forgoing lives of ease to ease the lives forlorn:
the peace of God is here to stay, embracing those who walk his way.
3. The joy of God comes close where faith encounters fears,
where heights and depths of life are found through smiles and tears:
the joy of God is here to stay, embracing those who walk his way.
4. The grace of God comes close to those whose grace is spent,
where hearts are tired or sore and hope is bruised or bent:
the grace of God is here to stay, embracing those who walk his way.
5. The Son of God comes close where people praise his name,
where bread and wine are blest and shared, as when he came:
the Son of God is here to stay, embracing those who walk his way.

(words: John L Bell & Graham Maule; music: John L Bell)

PRAYERS following the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh.

Sovereign God,
we give you thanks for those who lead and inspire us.
We give you thanks for those who are figures of stability whom we didn't know we
need until they were gone.
We remember those who lent us confidence by their presence, even though we
didn't always notice how.

We remember His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, whose steadfast service has
traced through our nation's life for seven decades. We pray for all who have
found an opportunity opening up because of one of his charities or awards. We
pray for the environmental needs he has highlighted for decades, and for the
species protected because he made us notice them.

As we take in the news of Prince Philip's death, we pray for his family, especially
Elizabeth our Queen.
We pray for their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, near and far,
taking in the news.
Bless them in their tender humanity; uphold them in their public roles.

Grateful for Prince Philip's peaceful death, we pray for attentive end of life care for
all older people in our neighbourhood. We pray for your Spirit's comfort for every
family grieving at this time and all who minister to them.

We pray, humbled before you, our creator, who revealed in Christ that you are
both servant and King. Amen.

And a Prayer for the Queen:

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, bless our Sovereign Queen Elizabeth, and all who are in authority under her; that they may order all things in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace, to the honour of your name, and the good of your Church and people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN [Christ is risen!](#)

*Christ is risen! Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Christ is risen, risen indeed, hallelujah!*

1. Love's work is done, the battle is won;
where now, O death is your sting?
He rose again, to rule and to reign,
Jesus our conquering King.
2. Lord over sin, Lord over death,
at his feet Satan must fall!
Ev'ry knee bow; all will confess
Jesus is Lord over all!
3. Tell it abroad, "Jesus is Lord!"
Shout it and let your praise ring!
Gladly we raise our songs of praise,
worship is our offering!

(words & music: C Rolinson & J Mulder)

SERMON from the Revd Nigel Evans Pietroni

Joy amidst sorrow; laughter through tears; excitement whilst experiencing anxiety; longing for more whist grateful for so much. Such were my feelings and experiences as those of us who were able gathered together to worship on a glorious and chilly Easter morning after so many long weeks apart. Missing dreadfully those who are still shielding, and grieving those who will never again join us in worship, but will always be with us in spirit.

It's been one week since Easter Day, the day of resurrection, one week since the empty tomb, one week since our first "Alleluia. Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia." One week on and we are back in our own homes. It might seem that nothing has changed, but in truth everything is changing as we prepare to worship together once more from next week, and this time in the church building! We are nearly there...but not yet!

Similarly in our Gospel reading it is one week after the resurrection and the disciples are in the same place they were on that first Easter night. They are in the same room behind the same locked doors. Everything is different and everything is the same. Everything is about to change, though like us they have no idea what the future looks like.

So if the resurrection is such a big deal, such a life changing event, why are they still stuck in the same place? What difference has the empty tomb made? How has it changed them? Has it let them see themselves and their world differently? Has it done anything for them? It doesn't look as if it's made much difference.

They are in the same house behind the same locked doors as a week ago. What's changed?

On a cold and chilly February morning in 2018 Christopher and I walked into the cavernous interior of St Paul's in the jewellery quarter. Fearful, angry, bitter and resentful at the ending of my ministry in my parish in Stoke, it was actually the last place I wanted to be that morning. Walking in to the cold and draughty building we took our place in the choir stalls we had been directed to. The clock ticked inexorably to the start of the service, and very few others joined us. I wanted to be in a church full of people so that I could hide with my angry thoughts, and sulk with God and lick my wounds, and duty done, never return. This was the last place I wanted to be. I could have left. I nearly did. But I/ we chose to stay.

The bell rang and an old priest shuffled in to take the service. I had nothing against him but every part of my being groaned. I wanted something different...I knew not what, but I knew it wasn't this. The service began with cd music and I zoned out. And then it happened.

The Gospel reading was read, telling the familiar story of the transfiguration. I winced inwardly, having heard and preached every possible sermon on the passage. With trepidation I began to listen as the old priest began to preach. And at that moment his words were directed straight to me. It was as if he had prepared them just for me in that moment. And I knew that God had reached out and touched my heart. It was for me a resurrection moment. A moment when though I could not see the future I knew that God was with me and that my relationship with her had changed.

Everything was different...the following week we began worshipping at All Saints and we haven't been anywhere since. You are all part of my resurrection story.

Resurrection stories takes time. It is not a one time event. It's something that we grow into. It's a process. It's a way of being and a life to be lived. By the grace of God we evolve into resurrected people through our relationships and the circumstances of our lives. God wastes nothing. Every day we are stepping into the resurrected life. It's not always easy and some days are just plain hard.

This Sunday may be a first step on your resurrection story. It maybe a new step of a very long story. I am convinced however, that our resurrection story is life long with many a twist in the road. You maybe looking forward to next week with eager anticipation to meeting again, or with sadness that you still feel a few weeks off being able to join us. Whatever, it is a step on the resurrection road. A new chapter on your resurrection story, and one that is different for each of us.

Stories are very different to facts. Facts are one dimensional, stories are multidimensional. Facts inform the mind, stories touch the heart. Facts transmit information but stories transform lives. Think about it like this. A fact is static, like a snapshot of a particular moment in time. A story is dynamic, like a movie that takes us across time.

The empty tomb discovered that first Easter morning was for the disciples a fact that could not be denied. It is a single moment, it is not the story of the resurrection. The facts of Jesus' life are not the story of his life, in the same way that the facts of your life, the place you were born, the date you started your new job are not the story of your life.

The facts of the empty tomb are simply the starting point for the resurrection story, and the next stopping off point of the story is with the disciples, frightened and confused in the upper room. Too often, however we take the facts as the entire story, something that all too often with the main character in this morning's resurrection story, Thomas.

When we think of Thomas we immediately think of what we consider to be the facts, that he was a doubter. Doubting Thomas. 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

That fact however is just the starting point for his resurrection story. Where we start is less important than where we go, where we end.

You may not be aware of how his resurrection story continued. We have him condemned as a doubter, but he died in India having become the apostle to the people of India and died a martyr having been run through with five spears by five soldiers. That doesn't sound like much of a doubter to me. It sounds instead like someone who grew and changed, someone for whom the resurrection of Christ was real, someone for whom the empty tomb made a difference. But it took time, just as it does for most if not all of us.

One other thing to note about Thomas, is that we could just as easily know him as 'confessing Thomas'. Despite his doubting he was actually the first of the disciples to proclaim after he had encountered Jesus, 'my Lord and my God.' With those words he named a new relationship with Jesus, embraced a new world view and a new way of being. Somewhere between doubting Thomas and Confessing Thomas is the story of resurrection. The moment of doubt was simply the starting place for his resurrection story which led him to all kinds of unexpected places.

We all have our starting places too. Mine began many years ago, but a significant reboot of the story began that cold February day in a sparsely attended church service through the words of an old priest.

Where are you on your resurrection story today. Wherever you are, today is a significant point on your journey, as each encounter with God and the resurrected Jesus is. Whatever your life today and the circumstances are, that's the starting point for your story of resurrection. So if you are dealing with deep loneliness, sorrow and loss that's your starting point. If you have great anticipation about the unlocking and being able to be more active in the world and resume much loved activities that is your starting point. If you are stuck in your home, fearful, and in a place of uncertainty, that is your starting point and the place in which Jesus stands. If illness, old age or disability are facts of your life, that's your starting point and the place in which Jesus shows up. If you feel lost, betrayed, disappointed, or overwhelmed that's your starting point.

The great tragedy is not that the disciples are in the same house behind the same locked doors. That's just their starting place. The great tragedy will be if they refuse to unlock the door, and refuse to go out of the house. So much that has happened in the last year has caused us to be fearful, anxious to be with people, to resume our lives, to worship together. Anxiety and mental health concerns are at an all time high. This is not an easy time to live, and even the unlocking of society raises many more anxieties.

This for us all is our starting place today, and it's here that Christ shows up in our resurrection story. Both times in our gospel reading the disciples are behind closed doors and Jesus shows up, standing in their midst. The walls and locked doors of our homes we are in this morning will not keep him out. He steps into the midst of our house, through the locked doors, sees past our

masked faces and breathes life and peace into us. He breathes peace and hope and can ease our anxiety. He breathes peace and courage into us. So today take a deep breath. Let the love of Christ fill and enliven you. Let it give you courage and strength to open the doors as we set out on a new moment in your resurrection story. We don't and can't know what the future holds but we can know that we are not on our own, as our resurrection story continues.

HYMN [The strife is o'er, the battle done](#)

1. The strife is o'er, the battle done;
now is the Victor's triumph won;
O let the song of praise be sung: Alleluia.
2. Death's mightiest pow'rs have done their worst,
and Jesus hath his foes dispersed;
let shouts of praise and joy outburst: Alleluia.
3. On the third morn he rose again
glorious in majesty to reign;
O let us swell the joyful strain: Alleluia.
4. Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee
from death's dread sting thy servants free,
that we may live, and sing to thee: Alleluia.

*(words: Latin hymn [17th century], trans Francis Pott;
music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, adapted by William Henry Monk)*

*Imagining all whom we miss, we gather each other, as it were, in our arms,
praying:*

**The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and
the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore.
Amen.**

VOLUNTARY [Sortie](#) (*Louis J-A Lefébure-Wély; played by Benjamin Noakes: Gill Cole suggested this very jolly piece for the end of her final service as Reader on Sunday 13 January 2019, so we include it today in her memory*)

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Following the sad announcement of the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip,
the Duke of Edinburgh,

All Saints Kings Heath is open for personal prayer

On

Saturday 10th April 10am-1pm
Sunday 11th April 2pm-3.30pm
Tuesday 13th April 10am-12noon
Thursday 15th April 10am-12noon

There will be an opportunity safely to light a candle if you wish. Face Coverings are to be worn
in Church.

Access to Church is via the memorial garden and North Porch.

The National CofE website is hosting a national book of condolence, which can be accessed via
the following link,
<https://www.churchofengland.org/remembering-his-royal-highness-prince-philip> . We are asked
not to provide a physical book of condolence at the moment.

*Next Sunday there will be a service of Holy Communion in
Church at 10am.*

*The service will also be posted online like this one for those
needing to worship at home.*

