

Holy Communion for the **EASTER SEASON**

7th April 2024

President & Preacher Rev Jim Florance
Deacon Gerda

Congregational responses are usually shown in **bold type**,
where these are also in *italics* they are normally sung.



WELCOME & Introduction

Lord of all life, God of Easter
all living things reflect your glory.
Restore and heal all that is wounded
Roll back the stone of prejudice and fear
Release the signs of spring

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

HYMN 204 - *If Christ had not been raised from death*

If Christ had not been raised from death
our faith would be in vain,
our preaching but a waste of breath,
our sin and guilt remain.
But now the Lord is risen indeed;
he rules in earth and heaven:
his gospel meets a world of need
in Christ we are forgiven.

If Christ still lay within the tomb
then death would be the end,
and we should face our final doom
with neither guide nor friend.
But now the Saviour is raised up,
so when a Christian dies
we mourn, yet look to God in hope
in Christ the saints arise!

If Christ had not been truly raised
his Church would live a lie;
his name should nevermore be praised,
his words deserve to die.
But now our great Redeemer lives;
through him we are restored:
his word endures, his Church revives
in Christ, our risen Lord.

Christopher Idle (b. 1938) based on 1 Corinthians 15.12-20
204 Words: © Christopher Idle / The Jubilate Group. Administered by The Jubilate Group,

In the light of the risen son
We worship today

**Faithful one, whose word is life:
come with saving power
to free our praise,
inspire our prayer
and shape our lives
for the kingdom of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Invitation to CONFESSION

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Confession (*please sit or kneel*)

When we do not live in the joy of the resurrection
but are caught up in the demands of the world

Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

When there are no signs of spring in our hearts
And we neglect to care for our world

Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy

When we fail to see Christ in friend and stranger
And we fail to see Christ in ourselves

Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord **Amen.**

Please stand to sing the Gloria

***Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.
Glory to God in the Highest and peace to his people on earth,
Lord God, Heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***

***Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on
us; You are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer.
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.
For you alone are the Holy one, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the
most high, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father.
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***

THE COLLECT *(Prayer of the week - found on the pew sheet)*

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

READINGS *(please sit)*

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 14: 10 – end (Read by Sue B)

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, 'Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, "Let us alone and let us

serve the Egyptians”? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.’ But Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.’ Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.’ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, ‘Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.’ Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.’ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading: 1 John 1: 1-2: 2 (Read by Pam)

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us - we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 197 - Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord

*Alleluia, alleluia,
give thanks to the risen Lord;
Alleluia, alleluia,
give praise to His name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth,
He is the King of creation.

*Alleluia, alleluia,
give thanks to the risen Lord;
Alleluia, alleluia,
give praise to His name.*

Spread the good news o'er all the earth,
Jesus has died and has risen.

*Alleluia, alleluia,
give thanks to the risen Lord;
Alleluia, alleluia,
give praise to His name.*

We have been crucified with Christ;
now we shall live for ever.

*Alleluia, alleluia,
give thanks to the risen Lord;
Alleluia, alleluia,
give praise to His name.*

God has proclaimed the just reward,
life for the world, alleluia.

*Alleluia, alleluia,
give thanks to the risen Lord;
Alleluia, alleluia,
give praise to His name.*

Come let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Saviour:

*Alleluia, alleluia,
give thanks to the risen Lord;
Alleluia, alleluia,
give praise to His name.*

Donald Fishel (b. 1950)

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Please remain standing for the **GOSPEL READING**

Jesus is risen from the dead

Alleluia!

He has defeated death

Alleluia!

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing

Alleluia!

He has the words of eternal life.

Alleluia!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. *John*

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading: *John 20: 19 - 31*

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, '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.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Rev. Jim

We stand to affirm our Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?
We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?
We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?
We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.
This is our faith.
**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lead by Rev. Pauline
Please sit or kneel

These responses may be used

Risen Christ Jesus
Open the tombs of our hearts

at the end

God of the Easter faith

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

Amen.

Banns of Marriage, Notices and time of sharing

THE PEACE *(please stand)*

These words may be used

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said,
'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you

And also with you. Alleluia.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN 678 - *In Christ alone*

(During the hymn the bread & wine are brought forward and the altar is prepared)

In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! — who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!
Stuart Townend (b. 1963) and Keith Getty (b. 1974)

Risen Lord Jesus Christ, we believe you, and all we have heard is true.
When you break bread
**May we recognise you as the fire that burns within us
that we may bring light to your world. Amen**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER [Please sit or kneel - The choir may remain standing]

The Lord be with you
and also with you

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

We praise you for Jesus Christ,
risen to life, eternal as your love.
With the women at the tomb,
we raise the strain of gladness.

Lord of all life,
you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

You sent your Son to live among us,
Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.
He suffered on the cross;
he died to save us from our sins;
he rose in glory from the dead,
and we share his risen life.

You send your Spirit
to bring new life to the world,
and clothe us with power from on high.

And now we give you thanks that
The day of resurrection has come,
scattering fear and gloom.
And so we rejoice with all your people of every time and place,
and with angels and archangels,
to proclaim the glory of your name

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest.***

Father, on the night before he died,
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.
He took the bread, and thanked you.
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood,
the new promise of God's unfailing love.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,
and remember his death and resurrection,
send your Holy Spirit,
that we who share these gifts
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us
that we may love one another,
work for the healing of the earth,
and share the good news of Jesus,
as we wait for his coming in glory.

For honour and praise belong to you, Father,
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:
one God, for ever and ever praising you and singing:

***Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the Kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever.
Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

**Though we are many, we are one body
Because we all share in one bread.**

The Agnus Dei

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.***

Come to this table, because Jesus loved you and gave himself for you.
Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body.

All are welcome to come forward to receive the bread and the wine or a blessing, it is helpful for us if you say your name when you come to the front.

An anthem is usually sung by the Choir and then a **HYMN** is also sung during Communion. (Please remain seated)

Anthem: *Let all mortal flesh (Cleobury)*

Hymn 236 - Breathe on me, breath of God

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will
to do and to endure.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die;
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.**

Edwin Hatch (1835- 1889)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Said by a minister and found on the weekly pew sheet.

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life.

We are fed by your love,

we are strengthened by your life.

We are sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy.

We are now commissioned to:

feed as we have been fed,

forgive as we have been forgiven,

love as we have been loved.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

HYMN 194 - *Alleluia, alleluia! hearts to heaven*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hearts to heaven and voices raise;

sing to God a hymn of gladness,

sing to God a hymn of praise:

he who on the cross a victim

for the world's salvation bled,

Jesus Christ, the King of glory,

now is risen from the dead.

Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits

of the holy harvest field,

which will all its full abundance

at his second coming yield;

then the golden ears of harvest

will their heads before him wave,

ripened by his glorious sunshine,

from the furrows of the grave.

Christ is risen, we are risen;
shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain, and dew, and gleams of glory
from the brightness of thy face;
that we, with our hearts in heaven,
here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel-hands be gathered,
and be ever, Lord, with thee.

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia to the Saviour,
who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
to the Triune Majesty.

Christopher Wordsworth (1807–1885)

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed Alleluia!

THE BLESSING

The God of peace,
Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
That great shepherd of the sheep,
Through the blood of the eternal covenant,
Make us perfect in every good work to do his will,
Working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you,
be upon those you love, pray for and care for
now and for evermore.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
Alleluia, Alleluia

In the name of Christ
Alleluia, Alleluia

