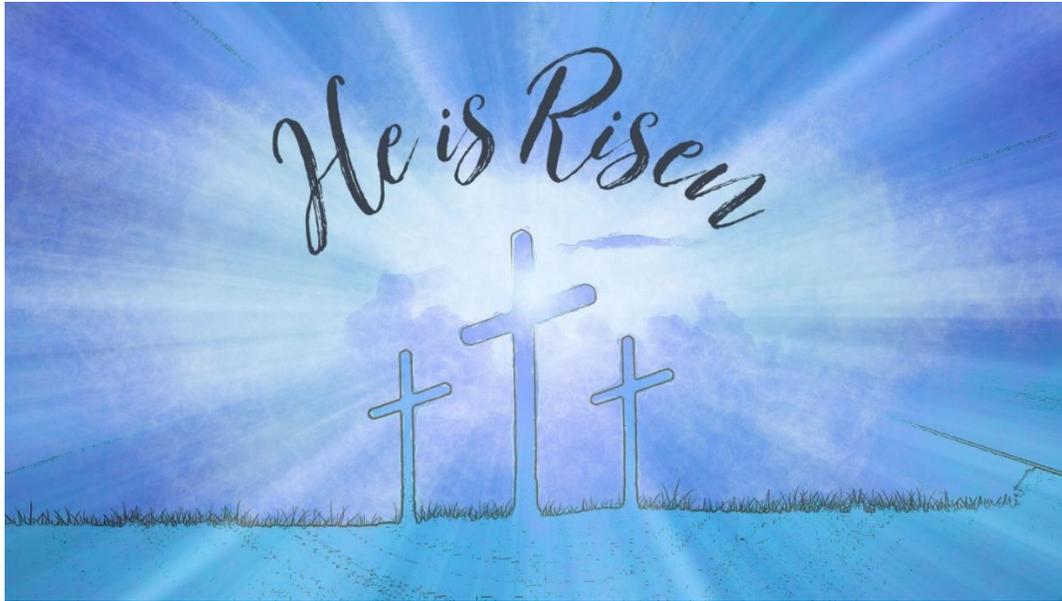


Easter Celebration 2021

St George's Churchyard – 9:30am



He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

We are allowed to sing (outside), but please follow these guidelines to keep everyone safe:

- Keep 2m distant from other households, especially when singing.
- Bring this order of service on your phone/tablet.
- Follow the instructions of the Stewards.
- We are using the churchyard in front of St George, there are trip hazards due to tombs and plants – please take care.
- If you are able please use the space between the tombs, leaving the paths for access and those less able.
- Masks do not have to be worn outside but must be worn to go into church (including using the toilet).

If you would like to make a donation to St George's Church please use our [Give a Little](#) page



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Welcome

As we gather outside we look to the 3 wooden crosses and remember the sad events of the last few days.

Jesus dies and is laid in the tomb.

Hymn: *Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?*

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

Jesus' body is placed in the tomb.

Matthew 27: 57-60

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed.

Turn to face the tomb, as we join the women on that first Sunday morning.

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

When there is nothing left to look forward to
there are still things to be done

**All: We will go to the tomb and anoint his body.
But our hope is dead**

When goodness has been defeated by evil
love by hatred and life has died

**All: We will go and mourn at the tomb
But where can we place our faith now?**

When the one we love has died
and our hearts are full of pain and grief

**All: We will go to the tomb and shed tears
But where shall we go for comfort?**

Matthew 28.1-8

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him. 'Now I have told you.'"

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for in you our God reveals the awesome power of love that is stronger even than death.
As in your dying you destroyed death,
so in your rising may we be raised above the trials and torments of this world's woe.
To you, Lord Jesus,
the fullness of your life revealed in an empty tomb,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**All: Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Hymn: *Amazing Grace*

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me.**

**I once was lost, but now I'm found;
was blind but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.**

**How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.**

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come.
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

When we've been there a thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we first began.

Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene

John 20:11-17

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realise that it was Jesus. He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for the love which drew Mary Magdalene to your tomb
to weep over your death.

As you broke into her grief with your death-shattering life,
so reach into our broken hearts with your promise of hope.

To you, Lord Jesus,
reaching into the deepest tombs of our despair,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

All: Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.

A short reflection

I wonder what is the most important part of this story for you today? Who will you tell about it?

Song: *He Has Risen*

*He has risen
He has risen
He has risen
Jesus is alive*

1. When the life flowed from His body
Seemed like Jesus' mission failed
But His sacrifice accomplished
Vict'ry over sin and hell
2. In the grave God did not leave Him
For His body to decay
Raised to life - the Great Awakening
Satan's pow'r He overcame
3. If there were no resurrection
We ourselves could not be raised
But the son of God is living
So our hope is not in vain
4. When the Lord rides out of heaven
Mighty angels at His side
They will sound the final trumpet
From the grave we shall arise
5. He has given life immortal
We shall see Him face to face
Through eternity we'll praise Him
Christ the champion of our faith

The New Light of Easter

We look towards the new fire of Easter.

The minister says:

Eternal God, who made this most holy day to shine with the brightness of your one true light: set us aflame with the fire of your love, and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

The Easter candles for the benefice are marked using the following words:

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end
Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages:
to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever.

All: Amen

The minister lights the Easter Candles, saying:

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The light of Christ

All: Thanks be to God

Renewal of our baptismal vows

We gather round this water to renew our baptismal vows and the minister says:

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism. In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ?

All: I turn to Christ

Do you repent of your sins?

All: I repent of my sins

Do you renounce evil?

All: I renounce evil

Prayer over the water

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

All: Who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the river Jordan, we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse and revive us.

All: Saving God, give us life.

We thank you that through the water of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the Promised Land.

All: Saving God, give us life.

We thank you that through the deep waters of death you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.

All: Saving God, give us life.

Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

All: Saving God, give us life.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them, bring them to new birth in the household of faith and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life; for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours, now and forever. Amen.

All: Saving God, give us life.

Profession of faith

Let us affirm our common faith in Jesus Christ.

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

All: I 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?

All: I 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?

All: I believe and trust in him

This is the faith of the Church.

All: This is our faith

We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The waters of baptism are sprinkled on the people.

The minister says:

Almighty God,

We thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith
with all who have been baptised in your name.

Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day
when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All: Amen

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

All: Amen

A moment to pray for those who are on our hearts.

The Peace

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

All: and also with you. Alleluia!

Let us offer each other a sign of God's peace by waving or smiling to one another.

Hymn: *Thine Be the Glory*

**Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.**

***Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.***

**Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:**

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:**

We go forward from this place, knowing Jesus is alive, welcomed into his family, filled with his Spirit to tell His story which is our story too.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Blessing

May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,
fill you with his new life; now and forever, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you,
and remain with you always. **Amen**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!