

Easter Day All-Age Service

Thank you for joining us for our Easter Day all-age service. Today we celebrate the truth that Jesus is alive, as we say 'Alleluia, Christ is risen – He is risen indeed, Alleluia'

We invite you to join in with the two hymns in the order of service, especially if you are watching live, as we join with many outside for Sing Resurrection – see <https://ctbi.org.uk/sing-resurrection/>

The Greeting

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

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:
He has given us new life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead!

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

Song

**1 Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia,
our triumphant holy day; alleluia,
who did once upon the cross; alleluia,
suffer to redeem our loss; alleluia!**

**2 Hymns of praise then let us sing; Alleluia,
unto Christ our heavenly king; alleluia,
who endured the cross and grave; alleluia,
sinners to redeem and save: alleluia!**

**3 But the pains which he endured; Alleluia,
our salvation have procured; alleluia,
now above the sky he's King; alleluia,
where the angels ever sing: alleluia!**

**4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
Praise him, all you heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

Opening Prayer

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

Prayer of penitence

Jesus Christ, risen master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our own weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone
and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Lord, hear us and help us.

May God who loved the world so much that He sent His Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve Him in this world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for Today

God of glory, by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Bible Reading *John 20:1-18 (NIV)*

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!'

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped round Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ 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.'¹⁴ At this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realise that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ 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.'

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Mary.'

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

¹⁷ 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."'

¹⁸ 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.

Talk

I wonder how you got on making your Easter Garden? It's been great seeing some of your photos; we've put them on the website, and there's still room for more! Here's one I made earlier! You can see the crosses, and the tomb with the stone rolled away with the grave clothes in it.

I wonder how many times over the last few weeks you've begun to doubt and despair, even saying – maybe when trying to get an online shopping slot, or something you'd like to do but can't you've said 'its' impossible'. Here we are meeting in a way none of us could have predicted just few weeks ago, on Easter morning. We've just heard the event from John's Gospel. What seemed impossible as Jesus friends watched him die on a cross is now transformed as they see Jesus alive. On the first Easter morning the impossible happened.

- The massive stone that had been rolled in front of Jesus' tomb had been moved away from the entrance.
- Inside the tomb where Jesus' body had lain, there was now no sign of it.
- All that was left to see were the grave clothes.

I hope that despite the difficulty getting shopping, you've still managed to get an Easter Egg – here's mine. I'm going to unwrap it now – what do you think I will find inside the egg?

Nothing! That's what Peter discovered as he approached the tomb and saw the stone had been rolled away – nothing there except the grave clothes. For the moment Peter was confused.

Confused too was Mary – she was overcome by grief, thinking that something awful had happened to Jesus body. But the impossible had happened. Jesus was alive, and standing in front of her. In her confusion, she didn't even recognise him; but in meeting the risen Lord Jesus Mary's life was transformed. And did you notice the one word Jesus said to her – 'Mary' – he spoke her name. Many of us are finding different ways to communicate – zoom, facetime, telephones and yes, even letters – though they might need to spend 3 days in quarantine before we open them. Yet it's the sound of a loved one's voice that speaks most clearly, however it's communicated. The risen Lord Jesus said 'Mary'!

Instead of being really sad, (*Show large sad face*)

- Mary was now full of joy. (*Show large smiley face*)

Instead of feeling confused about Jesus, (*Show large sad face*)

- Mary was now full of love for Jesus. (*Show large smiley face*)

Instead of being in despair, *(Show large sad face)*

- Mary was now full of hope. *(Show large smiley face)*

The impossible happened that first Easter Day. Jesus was raised from the dead, and as he met them, their lives were transformed. This is the truth that Christians still discover today. Jesus is still alive, and still speaks our names. However we are feeling about the present situation, and what the future might bring knowing the risen Lord Jesus can do the same for us as it did for Mary.

Instead of being really sad, *(Show large sad face)*

- We are now full of joy. *(Show large smiley face)*

Instead of feeling confused about Jesus, *(Show large sad face)*

- We are now full of love for Jesus. *(Show large smiley face)*

Instead of being in despair, *(Show large sad face)*

- We are now full of hope. *(Show large smiley face)*

I am going to light this year's Easter candle. The transfer on this candle is special to me – I brought it from Durham Cathedral when we were visiting our family in February. It was to be lit today in church, and I was going to be baptising our grandson Arthur. That's having to be put on hold.

But the truth that candle represents is still true. The Easter Candle is used for Baptisms because the risen Lord Jesus Christ is the light of the world, here to transform our lives. So I now invite us to respond. I'll be using the words said at baptism services and the responses are those which we might have said at our confirmation. If you yourself have not yet been baptised or made these promises for yourself, maybe today is the day to make them for the first time. If so, please email me afterwards and let me know you made these promises. However we might be feeling about events in the world around us, when we promise to follow Jesus Christ he changes us just as he changed Mary. The outward circumstances might not change, but Jesus knowing and calling us by name changes sadness to joy, confusion to love, and despair to hope.

The Creed

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil

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

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?

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?

I 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.

The prayers

Lord, on this holy day when we are so full of joy
we recognise that many people are sad.

We come before you now
lifting them up into your loving arms.

Risen Jesus, **come among us.**

We pray for our world
that so desperately needs your new,
transformed life.

We feel the joy of that first Easter morning
and pray for restoration of faith where it is most lacking.

Risen Jesus, **come among us.**

We pray for the Church.
As we celebrate this morning
we pray for other Christians worldwide
who join with us in praise and worship.

Risen Jesus, **come among us.**

We pray for new life and hope for the sick,
and for those who mourn the passing of a loved one.

Risen Jesus, **come among us.**

We pray for all the people we meet,
at home and in our daily lives,
especially those who do not know Easter joy.

Risen Jesus, **come among us.**

After a moment of silence for our own prayers, we join together as Jesus taught us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those**

who trespass against us.

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. for ever and ever. Amen

The Communion

We remember Jesus' words at the Last Supper

Closing prayer

Lord, Mary had the privilege of knowing you on this earth.
You loved her, and she loved you.
I am your brother/sister and you love me and I love you.
Help me to share this wonderful news with those around me.
As we celebrate the resurrection,
I thank you so much for all that you have done for me.
Amen.

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

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:
He has given us new life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead!

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

Song

1 Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry 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, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won.*

2 Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb.
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let His church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.
*Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won.*

3 No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life!!
Life is nought without Thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors, through Thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above.
*Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won.*

Blessing

Lord God of resurrection,
Christ was raised on the first day of the week,
as we go into the days which lie ahead,
may we know your risen power and strength, that you know us by name
and may the blessing of God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with us now and always.

Amen.

Thank you for following our service today. Do stay around for 'virtual' coffee and chat via the zoom link
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/864875542?pwd=NFFwcklybEhxU2gwOGEwTINqS3RzUT09>

Details of our next services are found on our facebook page, this week's notice sheet and on the website
pcd.org.uk