

EASTER DAY 2020

If you are unable to join us for worship this Easter due to the present Lockdown, please use these prayers & readings and be with us in spirit.

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



Collect for Easter

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

First Reading Acts 10.34-43

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached – how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

"We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen – by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."



Gospel Reading John 20.1-9

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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. 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!"

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying



there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayers

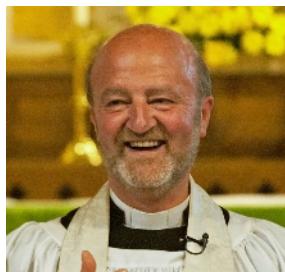
God, through the mighty resurrection
of your son Jesus Christ,
You have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the Kingdom of your Love:
grant that, as he was raised from the dead
so we may walk in newness of life
and seek those things which are above;
where with you, Father, and the Holy Spirit,
he is alive and reigns, now and forever Amen

God of compassion, at this time of crisis, we bring before you the peoples of our country and the world. We ask for your blessing and strength for those working tirelessly to protect and save life. We pray especially for the vulnerable children and old people who are at greater risk during this time: Those who are not safe at home; Those who may be plunged into even greater poverty; Those whose fragile mental health may worsen; those who feel abandoned and alone. Draw near to all who suffer in mind, body or spirit. We ask in Jesus' name, our Risen Lord. Amen.

Father, thank you for bringing me safely to this day. Bless my home and family, my neighbourhood and Church, and may the hope of Easter be renewed in our hearts and lives, that we may help transform our world with your love. Amen.

Easter Message 2020

It may be just 40 days ago when Lent started, but it feels an age and another world away from where we are now. Life has changed the world over due to Coronavirus and I suspect we will never get back to where we were before.



This is nothing new, for in many ways this was the disciples experienced that first "Easter". They saw their friend and Master taken from them with brutal violence and saw him die in agony on a cross, and then a few days later their reality changed when news came of the empty tomb and sightings of Jesus alive again. What would this mean for them?

One thing it didn't mean was that life would get easier for them, for if anything it got harder for once the early Church was founded and "Christians" appeared on the scene they met with increasing hostility from the Jews and above all from Rome itself. For 300 years Christians had to cope with varying degrees of persecution by the authorities and had to meet hidden away, but their faith grew because they now had a greater hope of a new and eternal life with God. Death was no longer the end, but a new beginning for them of something new and exciting.

This wasn't just Pie in the Sky when you die, but Steak on the Plate while you wait, for their quality of life and relationships changed and they were noted for their love for each other. Through the centuries many positive social movements have been started by Christians. Yes, there are always those who hijack faith and use it for their own selfish ends, but check out our Mission Statement and it is to Love God with all we have and to Love our neighbours as ourselves. There's nothing sinister or nasty, nothing about oppression or exploitation, rather it recognises that all of us fall short and need to aspire to something greater that helps us achieve our true humanity as children of God.

The experience we are going through now is similarly traumatic. Who could have guessed just 40 days ago the scenes now visible from our hospitals overcrowded with patients fighting to breath against an invisible enemy; of people being confined to their homes on the brightest of days for a simple trip out amongst crowds could be our downfall. Public gatherings banned including football matches, concerts, restaurants and Church Services. No weddings or Christenings and Funerals now very different with just a handful of people gathered.

Like the 12 disciples, our world has changed and won't be the same as before. Coronavirus will take its toll from amongst us and none of us know whether we will still be here this time next year. I'm rearranging weddings with my fingers crossed!

Time, then, to appreciate the important things of life that we may have taken for granted, including; our relationships and the time we spend with our families and friends; taking pleasure from the simple things in life like going for one walk a day; learning to live more simply so we leave plenty for

others; getting to know our neighbours and building communities; responding positively to the many needs in the world by supporting the many charities now struggling to survive; appreciating more the heroes of the time who have risked their lives for us - the brilliant NHS workers and carers, folks in our shops who risk all to serve us, Teachers who are still coming out to school, even in the holidays, to care for children so their parents can care for us. These are folk who are not on hundreds of thousands of pounds a week, but still have done all they can for us. True heroes!

We are learning new skills, seeing people and Churches reaching out in new and innovative ways to make a positive difference; parents becoming teachers at home; and we will all respect this planet far more in the future than we have in the past.



Whilst we suffer and find changes, our planet is breathing a huge sigh of relief from the destruction and pollution we were contributing to. Skies are now clear and blue, rivers are running clear and teeming with fish; and we are all learning not to be so wasteful and to make things last.

We may also start looking again beyond the material world to the spiritual world appreciating again the positive aspects of our faith that points us to God and eternity, that our ultimate security and destiny lie with God. Like in the war years, more people may open the door of their souls for faith to enter. I have been amazed at the number of people joining in with our Online Services, and when we can eventually come back in our Churches to worship we need to bring those folk along with us.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! The cry of Easter. Let us look to the future in hope as we respond, He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

May God's blessings rest with you and yours this Easter.

Paul

EASTER WORSHIP ONLINE

Maundy Thursday Supper Service at 7pm

Good Friday Devotion 2pm - 3pm



Easter Day Celebration at 9.30am

All these services can be found as Live Broadcasts on the Christ Church Facebook Page, or you can join with Zoom IF you email revpev@btintenet.com no later than an hour beforehand.

Easter with Saint Oswald's Newton at 11am

This service is Zoom only.

Also, check the **Diocese of York Website & Facebook Page** & other local Churches at **Nunthorpe & Ingleby Barwick**.

TV are also scheduling more services.