

St. Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood

Sunday 2nd May 2021 - 5th Sunday of Easter

Welcome to our hybrid Sunday Service as we join together, some people in church and others online at home.

Today is the 5th Sunday of Easter, and we will be thinking in our worship about Jesus' words that he is the true vine and his invitation to us to be united with him in all areas of our lives.

Please join in with the words in **bold** print.

GATHERING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you
and also with you.

HYMN

Brian A Wren (b.1936)
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1) I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me.

The love that made us, makes us
one,
and strangers now are friends.

2) I come with Christians far and
near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.

4) The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here.

3) As Christ breaks bread, and
bids us share,
each proud division ends.

5) Together met, together bound,
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one.

CONFESSION

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our 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.

ABSOLUTION

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

Amen.

GLORIA

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.

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.

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. Amen.

COLLECT

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Acts 8:26-40

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get ready and go south to the road that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This road is not used nowadays.) So Philip got ready and went.

Now an Ethiopian eunuch, who was an important official in charge of the treasury of the queen of Ethiopia, was on his way home. He had been to Jerusalem to worship God and was going back home in his carriage. As he rode along, he was reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to that carriage and stay close to it." Philip ran over and heard him reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. He asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The official replied, "How can I understand unless someone explains it to me?" And he invited Philip to climb up and sit in the carriage with him.

The passage of scripture which he was reading was this: "He was like a sheep that is taken to be slaughtered, like a lamb that makes no sound when its wool is cut off. He did not say a word. He was humiliated, and justice was denied him. No one will be able to tell about his descendants, because his life on earth has come to an end." The official asked Philip, "Tell me, of whom is the prophet saying this? Of himself or of someone else?" Then Philip began to speak; starting from this passage of scripture, he told him the Good News about Jesus.

As they travelled down the road, they came to a place where there was some water, and the official said, "Here is some water. What is to keep me from being baptized?" The official ordered the carriage to stop, and both Philip and the official went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away. The official did not see him again, but continued on his way, full of

joy. Philip found himself in Azotus; he went on to Caesarea, and on the way he preached the Good News in every town.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

HYMN

Danny Daniels

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You are the vine
 We are the branches
 Keep us abiding in you (repeat)
 And we'll go, in your love
 And we'll go, in your name
 That the world, will surely know,
 That you have the power to heal and to save
 You are the vine
 We are the branches
 Keep us abiding in you (repeat)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, 'All who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

Alleluia

GOSPEL John 15: 1-8

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

"I am the real vine, and my Father is the gardener. He breaks off every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will be clean and bear more fruit. You have been

made clean already by the teaching I have given you. Remain united to me, and I will remain united to you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it can do so only if it remains in the vine. In the same way you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine, and you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me. Those who do not remain in me are thrown out like a branch and dry up; such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire, where they are burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, then you will ask for anything you wish, and you shall have it. My Father's glory is shown by your bearing much fruit; and in this way you become my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

TALK

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God

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 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

INTERCESSIONS

Between the prayers we say

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

At the end of the prayers we say

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

THE PEACE

Alleluia. Christ has been raised from the dead. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

and also with you

We share a socially distanced sign of peace by turning and waving to those around us in church and to those on the screen

HYMN

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879)

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect, and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart: it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store;
take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. In your loving care you spread before us the table of life and give us the cup of salvation to drink. Keep us always in the fold of our Saviour and our Shepherd, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessed be God for ever.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here

God's Spirit is with us

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

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word, through whom
you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

And now we give you thanks
because in his victory over the grave a new age has dawned,
the long reign of sin is ended, a broken world is being renewed
and humanity is once again made whole.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and
saying:

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

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 for ever.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he come.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

If you wish to receive Holy Communion, please stand

The body of Christ

Amen

Holy Communion is distributed to those in the Church

Prayer of Spiritual Communion for those worshipping at home:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN

Martin Nystrom, based on Psalm 42:1-2
© 1983 Restoration Music Ltd

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you,
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.

*You alone are my strength, my shield, to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.*

I want you more than gold or silver, only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver and the apple of my eye.

*You alone are my strength, my shield, to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.*

You're my friend and you are my brother, even though you are a king.
I love you more than any other, so much more than anything.

*You alone are my strength, my shield, to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.*

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

NOTICES

HYMN

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1) Christ beside me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
King of my heart;
Christ within me,
Christ below me,
Christ above me
never to part.

2) Christ on my right hand,
Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me
shield in the strife;
Christ in my sleeping,
Christ in my sitting,
Christ in my rising
light of my life.

3) Christ beside me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
King of my heart;
Christ within me,
Christ below me,
Christ above me
never to part.

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life;

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you and those you love, now and always.

Amen

We are raised to new life in Christ. Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia

Since we are now doing “Hybrid” services we can no longer meet virtually after the service to share news, but you may meet in socially distanced groups of 6 or 2 households outside for a chat.

If you are in the church, please stay in your place until you are directed by a steward to leave the building.

***Thank you for filling in our COVID-19 track and trace book.
If you feel unwell during the week, please ring 07824 323815
so that we can contact others who were here today.***

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