

St. Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood

Sunday 25th April 2021 – 4th Sunday of Easter

Welcome to our "Hybrid" Sunday Service. In whatever way you are joining us, via Zoom or YouTube, or in-person we pray that you may be able to experience the presence of God and the joy of the resurrection this morning.

In the Old Testament, God is often referred to as the shepherd. The ancient ideal of "the good shepherd", protecting and making the ultimate sacrifice for his sheep, is regarded as being fulfilled by Jesus, his life on earth and his death.

So let us worship God in pureness of heart, ready to present our minds and bodies as a living sacrifice.

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

Gathering

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

All **and also with you.**

Hymn: Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us *(sung by St. Martin's Singers)*

- 1 **Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.**
- 2 **Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us;
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
self denying, death defying,
thou to Calvary didst go.**
- 3 **Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.**

James Edmeston (1791-1867)

Confession

We bow our heads to confess our sins and shortcomings, seeking the Father's mercy and healing.

When our preoccupation with worldly activities interferes with our prayers and worship.

Lord have mercy *All* **Lord, have mercy.**

When earthly pleasures allure and distract us from our rightful purposes.

Christ, have mercy. *All* **Christ, have mercy.**

When worship is not wholehearted and our minds wander onto other things.

Lord have mercy *All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **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

Let us pray that we may walk the risen life of Christ in glory.

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.

All **Amen.**

Reading: (Acts 4 : 1 - 12)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter and John were still speaking to the people when some priests, the officer in charge of the Temple guards, and some Sadducees arrived. They were annoyed because the two apostles were teaching the people that Jesus had risen from death, which proved that the dead will rise to life. So they arrested them and put them in jail until the next day, since it was already late. But many who heard the message believed; and the number grew to about five thousand.

The next day the Jewish leaders, the elders, and the teachers of the Law gathered in Jerusalem. They met with the High Priest Annas and with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and the others who belonged to the High Priest's family. They made the apostles stand before them and asked them, "How did you do this? What power do you have or whose name did you use?"

Peter, full of the Holy Spirit, answered them, "Leaders of the people and elders: if we are being questioned today about the good deed done to the lame man and how he was healed, then you should all know, and all the people of Israel should know, that this man stands here before you completely well through the power of the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth—whom you crucified and whom God raised from death. Jesus is the one of whom the scripture says,

‘The stone that you the builders despised
turned out to be the most important of all.’

Salvation is to be found through him alone; in all the world there is no one else whom God has given who can save us.”

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

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;

I have everything I need.

He lets me rest in fields of green grass

and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water.

He gives me new strength.

He guides me in the right paths,

as he has promised.

Even if I go through the deepest darkness,

I will not be afraid, Lord,

for you are with me.

Your shepherd's rod and staff protect me.

You prepare a banquet for me,

where all my enemies can see me;

you welcome me as an honored guest

and fill my cup to the brim.

I know that your goodness and love will be with me all my life;

and your house will be my home as long as I live.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord
I know my own sheep and my own know me.

All Alleluia.

Gospel: (John 10 : 11 - 18)

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

Jesus said:

“I am the good shepherd, who is willing to die for the sheep. When the hired man, who is not a shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees a wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away; so the wolf snatches the sheep and scatters them. The hired man runs away because he is only a hired man and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd. As the Father knows me and I know the Father, in the same way I know my sheep and they know me. And I am willing to die for them. There are other sheep which belong to me that are not in this sheep pen. I must bring them, too; they will listen to my voice, and they will become one flock with one shepherd.

“The Father loves me because I am willing to give up my life, in order that I may receive it back again. No one takes my life away from me. I give it up of my own free will. I have the right to give it up, and I have the right to take it back. This is what my Father has commanded me to do.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Talk

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Intercessions

Between the prayers we say

Lord, in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers we say

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

Hymn: Restore, O Lord *(sung by St. Martin's Singers)*

- 1** Restore, O Lord, the honour of Your name,
in works of sovereign power
come shake the earth again;
that all may see and come with reverent fear
to the living God,
whose kingdom shall outlast the years.
- 2** Restore, O Lord, in all the earth Your fame,
and in our time revive
the church that bears Your name.
And in Your anger, Lord, remember mercy,
O living God,
whose mercy shall outlast the years.
- 3** Bend us, O Lord, where we are hard and cold,
in Your refiner's fire
come purify the gold.
Though suffering comes and evil crouches near,
still our living God
is reigning, He is reigning here.
- 4** Restore, O Lord, the honour of Your name,
in works of sovereign power
come shake the earth again;
that all may see and come with reverent fear
to the living God,
whose kingdom shall outlast the years.

Graham Kendrick (born 1950) & Chris Rolinson

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Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All 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.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you
because you raised him gloriously from the dead.
For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us,
and has taken away the sin of the world.
By his death he has destroyed death,
and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

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:

**All 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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of St. Christopher and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All 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

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

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

The gifts of God for the people of God.

If you wish to receive holy communion please stand

The body of Christ

All **Amen**

Holy Communion is distributed to those in the Church.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

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.

Closing Prayer

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

Hymn – Thine be the Glory *(Sung by St. Martin's Singers)*

- 1** **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.***
- 2** **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.
*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son:
Endless is the victory, 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 conquerors, through thy deathless love:
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.
*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son:
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.***

The Blessing

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

May the God of power and mercy
nourish and protect you,
keep you from wandering
and direct you in the ways of love and peace.

And may the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

With the risen life of Christ within you,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Unfortunately, since we are now doing “Hybrid” services we can no longer meet virtually after the service to share news (and any socialising in the Church or the Church grounds is not permitted).

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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