

St. Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood

Sunday 4th April 2021 – Easter Sunday

Welcome to our “Hybrid” Easter 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.

Today is a day of great joy. Christ is risen! He is alive and always with us. Nothing can ever separate us from his love, not even death, for Christ has brought us life eternal. So let us come together and celebrate this happy day.

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

The Service of Light

Christ yesterday and today,

All the beginning and the end,

Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages;

All to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever. Amen.

As the Paschal Candle is lit we say together

**All 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.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Hymn: Jesus Christ is risen today *(sung by St Martin's Voices)*

- 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 that he endured, Alleluia.
our salvation have procured; Alleluia.
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia.
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia.**

Surrexit Christus hodie Anonymous Latin, Lyra Davidica (1708), Compleat Psalmodist (1749 Arnold), Charles Wesley (1707-88)

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.

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.

All Amen.

Reading: (Acts 10.34-43)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter began to speak: "I now realize that it is true that God treats everyone on the same basis. Those who fear him and do what is right are acceptable to him, no matter what race they belong to. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, proclaiming the Good News of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know of the great event that took place throughout the land of Israel, beginning in Galilee after John preached his message of baptism. You know about Jesus of Nazareth and how God poured out on him the Holy Spirit and power. He went everywhere, doing good and healing all who were under the power of the Devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses of everything that he did in the land of Israel and in Jerusalem. Then they put him to death by nailing him to a cross. But God raised him from death three days later and caused him to appear, not to everyone, but only to the witnesses that God had already chosen, that is, to us who ate and drank with him after he rose from death. And he commanded us to preach the gospel to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God has appointed judge of the living and the dead.

All the prophets spoke about him, saying that all who believe in him will have their sins forgiven through the power of his name.”

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

Psalm 118

**Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good,
and his love is eternal.**

**Let the people of Israel say,
“His love is eternal.”**

**The Lord makes me powerful and strong;
he has saved me.**

**Listen to the glad shouts of victory in the tents of God's people:
“The Lord's mighty power has done it!
His power has brought us victory—
his mighty power in battle!”**

**I will not die; instead, I will live
and proclaim what the Lord has done.**

**He has punished me severely,
but he has not let me die.**

**Open to me the gates of the Temple;
I will go in and give thanks to the Lord!**

**This is the gate of the Lord;
only the righteous can come in.**

**I praise you, Lord, because you heard me,
because you have given me victory.**

**The stone which the builders rejected as worthless
turned out to be the most important of all.**

**This was done by the Lord;
what a wonderful sight it is!**

**This is the day of the Lord's victory;
let us be happy, let us celebrate!**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

All Alleluia.

Gospel: (John 20 : 1 - 18)

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

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the entrance. She went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

Then Peter and the other disciple went to the tomb. The two of them were running, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and saw the linen cloths, but he did not go in. Behind him came Simon Peter, and he went straight into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there and the cloth which had been around Jesus' head. It was not lying with the linen cloths but was rolled up by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in; he saw and believed. (They still did not understand the scripture which said that he must rise from death.) Then the disciples went back home.

Mary stood crying outside the tomb. While she was still crying, she bent over and looked in the tomb and saw two angels there dressed in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and the other at the feet. "Woman, why are you crying?" they asked her. She answered, "They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have put him!"

Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there; but she did not know that it was Jesus. "Woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who is it that you are looking for?" She thought he was the gardener, so she said to him, "If you took him away, sir, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned toward him and said in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (This means "Teacher.")

"Do not hold on to me," Jesus told her, "because I have not yet gone back up to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them that I am returning to him who is my Father and their Father, my God and their God."

So Mary Magdalene went and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord and related to them what he had told her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Talk

The Liturgy of Initiation – Prayers 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 baptised in the river Jordan, we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us.

All Saving God, give us life.

We thank you that through the waters 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 *N*, bring *him/her/them* to new birth in the household of faith and raise *him/her/them* with Christ to full and eternal life; for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

All Amen

Profession of Faith

And so we join with *N*, in professing our faith together.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made the world?

All I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ, who redeemed humankind?

All I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God?

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. Amen.

Baptism

N, is this your faith?

N **This is my faith.**

N, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church,
pour upon you the riches of his grace,
that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people
you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit,
and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

All Amen.

Commission

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.
Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil,
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,
by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

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.

Welcome to the newly Baptised

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:

N, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

All **We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

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: Now the green blade rises (*Sung by St. Martin's Voices*)

- 1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.
- 2 In the grave they laid him, Love whom men had slain,
thinking that he never would awake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.
- 3 Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for the three days in the grave had lain,
back from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.
- 4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
then your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872-1958)

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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
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.

Reflection Anthem: Halleluia - Handel *(Sung by St. Martin's Singers)*

Hallelujah, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.
The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ;
and he shall reign for ever and ever.
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah.

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

God of Life,
who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son
to the death of the cross,
and by his glorious resurrection
have delivered us from the power of our enemy:
grant us so to die daily to sin,
that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

Hymn – Thine be the Glory (sung by St Martin's Voices)

- 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.***

Giving of a Lighted Candle

Each newly baptised person is given a lighted candle, lit from the Easter Candle.

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and has given us a place with the saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.

**All Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.**

The Blessing

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.

All Amen.

God the Son,
who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

All Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

All Amen.

And 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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