

St. Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood

Sunday 14th May 2023 – 6th Sunday of Easter

Welcome to our “Hybrid” Sunday Service. In whatever way you are joining us, via Zoom 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 God “we live and move and have our being”. Let us worship the Lord and dedicate our lives to the one whose love we are commanded to share with all creation.

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: At the Name of Jesus (54)

Confession

Jesus says, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” We know there are times when our lips have professed a love which our actions have betrayed, and so we seek God’s grace and forgiveness.

You are faithful to us even when we are too imprisoned by fear to live freely as your people.

In your mercy, forgive us. *All* **Lord, hear us and help us.**

You teach us to love our neighbour, revealing your face in those from whom we are tempted to turn away.

In your mercy, forgive us. *All* **Lord, hear us and help us.**

You stretch wide your arms in love even when we recoil from your path for us.

In your mercy, forgive us. *All* **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.

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, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father.

All Amen.

Reading: (Acts 17:22-31)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul stood up in front of the city council and said, "I see that in every way you Athenians are very religious. For as I walked through your city and looked at the places where you worship, I found an altar on which is written, 'To an Unknown God.' That which you worship, then, even though you do not know it, is what I now proclaim to you. God, who made the world and everything in it, is Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples made by human hands. Nor does he need anything that we can supply by working for him, since it is he himself who gives life and breath and everything else to everyone. From one human being he created all races of people and made them live throughout the whole earth. He himself fixed beforehand the exact times and the limits of the places where they would live. He did this so that they would look for him, and perhaps find him as they felt around for him. Yet God is actually not far from any one of us; as someone has said,

'In him we live and move and exist.'

It is as some of your poets have said,

'We too are his children.'

Since we are God's children, we should not suppose that his nature is anything like an image of gold or silver or stone, shaped by human art and skill. God has overlooked the times when people did not know him, but now he commands all of them everywhere to turn away from their evil ways. For he has fixed a day in which he will judge the whole world with justice by means of a man he has chosen. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising that man from death!"

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

Psalm 66

Come and see what God has done, his wonderful acts among people.
He changed the sea into dry land; our ancestors crossed the river on foot.

There we rejoiced because of what he did.

He rules forever by his might and keeps his eyes on the nations.

Let no rebels rise against him.

Praise our God, all nations; let your praise be heard.
He has kept us alive and has not allowed us to fall.

**You have put us to the test, God; as silver is purified by fire,
so you have tested us.**

You let us fall into a trap and placed heavy burdens on our backs.

You let our enemies trample us; we went through fire and flood,
but now you have brought us to a place of safety.

I will bring burnt offerings to your house; I will offer you what I promised.

I will give you what I said I would when I was in trouble.

**I will offer sheep to be burned on the altar; I will sacrifice bulls and goats,
and the smoke will go up to the sky.**

Come and listen, all who honour God, and I will tell you what he has done for me.
I cried to him for help; I praised him with songs.

If I had ignored my sins, the Lord would not have listened to me.

Hymn: Rejoice the Lord is King (580)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said: "If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him."

All **Alleluia.**

Gospel: (John 14:15-21)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love me, you will obey my commandments. I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, who will stay with you forever. He is the Spirit, who reveals the truth about God. The world cannot receive him, because it cannot see him or know him. But you know him, because he remains with you and is in you.

"When I go, you will not be left all alone; I will come back to you. In a little while the world will see me no more, but you will see me; and because I live, you also will

live. When that day comes, you will know that I am in my Father and that you are in me, just as I am in you.

“Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. My Father will love those who love me; I too will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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.

**Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers, and to all the apostles:
this we have received, and this we believe. 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

The Peace

The risen Christ has broken the dread chains of death. May his Spirit dwell within our unlocked hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All and also with you

We offer a sign of peace to one another

Hymn: Alleluia, Sing to Jesus (12)

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.

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:

**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.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Holy Communion is distributed to those in the Church.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion (for private prayer)

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.

Chant: Bless the Lord My Soul (923)

Closing Prayer

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All **Amen**

Notices

Hymn: Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory (449)

Blessing

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

May God, who made the world and everything in it, sustain you.

All Amen.

May Christ, who sits at the right hand of the Father, be revealed to you.

All Amen.

May the Spirit of truth inspire you.

All Amen.

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.

Refreshments are served following the service

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