

Easter Day at 9.55am **Sunday 12th April 2020**

This service for Easter Day is starting earlier than the usual 11am. This is because we are taking part in *Sing Resurrection!* – an international initiative to have Christians gather ‘together’ on Easter at 10am to go outside (keeping a safe special distance) and sing *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* at the top of their voices! We will be doing the same at the end, singing *Thine be the Glory*.

The Easter fire will be lit (from all the prayer requests made over the year) in readiness to light the new Paschal candle.

Welcome

To every human tyrant and dictator, to every war monger and oppressor, today is a fearful day.
To every religious bigot and extremist, to every fundamentalist, today is a fearful day.
We come to celebrate the liberation of the human spirit!
We come to celebrate the triumph of love over hate, the triumph of life over death, the triumph of good over evil.
For today the power of the cross is broken, the power of fear and despair is defeated.
Because of today we can dare to hope, we can dare to believe.
Jesus, who was killed on the cross, is risen.
Jesus, who was laid in a tomb, is alive.
Come, let us celebrate the feast!

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Hymn – *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

**All Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia,
our triumphant holy day; alleluia,
who did once upon the cross; alleluia,
suffer to redeem our loss; alleluia!**

**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!**

**But the pains which he endured; Alleluia,
our salvation have procured; alleluia,
now above the sky he's King; alleluia,
where the angels ever sing: alleluia!**

**Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
Praise him, all you heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

The Service of Light

All: Christ yesterday and today,
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.**

The Easter Candle is marked with these words:

Christ yesterday and today,
the beginning and the end,
Alpha and Omega,
all time belongs to him,
and all ages;
to him be glory and power,
through every age and for ever.

All: **Amen.**

Five incense studs are inserted into the Easter Candle as a reminder of the five wounds of Christ:

By his holy and glorious wounds
may Christ our Lord guard and keep us.

All: **Amen.**

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of God. As we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done, we can be confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him forever.

The Easter Candle is lit and lifted high.

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!

Opening Prayer

**All: Risen Lord Jesus,
present with us now,
open our hearts to receive you,
open our minds to understand you,
ignite our will to follow you.
Bring your resurrection life to all that is dead in us,
your living hope to all that despairs,
your risen joy to all that is sorrowful,
bring your love to transform our living.
May our lives touch all those we meet,
that all your children may come to know you,
to be their life, joy, hope and love.
Amen.**

Collect

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen 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.

Gloria in Excelsis

All: 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.

Gospel Reading – John 20.1-18

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.
All: Alleluia.
He has defeated the powers of death.
All: Alleluia.
Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing.
All: Alleluia.
He has the words of eternal life.
All: Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *John*.
All: 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 came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, 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.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"
"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"
Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

Easter music – Hallelujah, Jesus lives today!

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Ordinarily at Easter we would renew our Baptismal Vows, but we'll save that for when we can meet again.

Instead, take a moment to ponder and give thanks for the gift of faith and your relationship with God. Thank God for the call upon your life in baptism and ask him to help you serve as best you can.

Prayers of Intercession

We think of the tomb,
and of all that speaks of death and destruction in our world.
We think of the devastating effects of Coronavirus
We pray for the nations fighting the effects of the global pandemic.
As we notice the environmental impact of lockdown
we pray for a future when we can live in harmony with creation,
reducing the catastrophe of global warming.
In the place of pain and loss,

All: we dare to affirm the hope and the blessings of Easter.

We think of the disciples' confusion, and the pointless rushing about.
We pray for all who are over-worked, burnt out and exhausted.
For NHS workers and all key workers providing food
and essential services.
We pray for the under-employed, and unemployed,
and those forced into inactivity as a result of the current crisis.
In the place of pain and loss,

All: we dare to affirm the hope and the blessings of Easter.

We think of Mary not recognising Jesus, then hearing him call her name.
We pray for the lonely, unloved and abandoned,
for all who face lockdown alone.
We pray for the homeless, vulnerable, isolated and the afraid.
In the place of pain and loss,

All: we dare to affirm the hope and the blessings of Easter.

We think of Jesus sending Mary to the disciples
with the good news of resurrection life.
We pray for all who long for that good news today,
the sick and suffering, all who grieve.
We remember those who have died....
In the place of pain and loss,

All: we dare to affirm the hope and the blessings of Easter.

The Lord's Prayer

All 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.**

An act of Spiritual Communion

**My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You
were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never
permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.**

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said, 'Peace be with you.'
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Hymn – Thine Be the Glory

All Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where Thy body lay.

Refrain:

**Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won.**

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb.
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let His church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting. *[Refrain]*

No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life!!
Life is nought without Thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors, through Thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above. *[Refrain]*

Final blessing

All If anyone is in Christ,
we are a new creation;

God of new possibilities,
new beginnings, new hope,
All **bless us now with your resurrection life!**

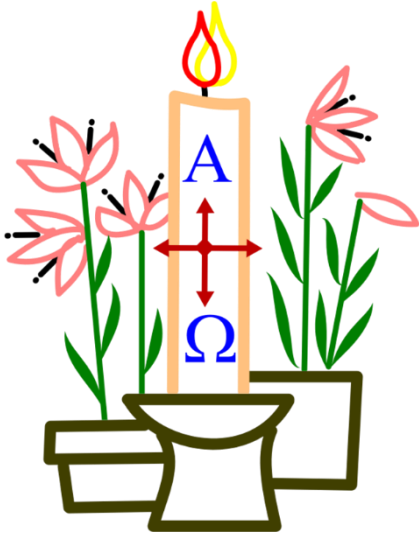
Jesus, calling us by name,
knowing and loving us completely,
All **bless us now with your resurrection life!**

Spirit, sending us out with Good News,
equipping and energising us,
All **bless us now with your resurrection life!**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us all and remain with us always.
All **Amen.**

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

Rev Joe and his family wishes everyone a safe and peaceful Easter!



Please note:

Therefore there will be NO live streaming of Morning and Evening Prayer and Collective Worship next week.

Rev Joe will live stream Prayer During the Day on Wednesday at 10am and will be back in full swing for I am next Sunday!

Rev Joe will still be available if anyone would like a chat – 01442 865217.