

The Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday)

Fourth Sunday Family Communion

Sunday 26th March 2023, 10.30am

Welcome to our service of Holy Communion.

This is a service for *everyone* to engage with and to participate in.
Please make yourselves at home.

Gathering to Worship God

Musical Meditation – *There is a Green Hill far away*

We meet in the name of God,

All **Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Words of welcome are given.

The prophet asks: Can our soul-weary bones live again?

All **O God, you know!**

We ask: Can we dance again after mourning, loss and grief?

All **O God, you know!**

The gift is sure and unmistakable:

All **God's breath poured out as new life for weary souls!**

Let us celebrate the gift of God's new life,

All **And come to worship God in laughter and dancing!**

Worship Song – *Power of the Cross*

Solo Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day
Christ on the road to Calvary
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then
Nailed to the cross of wood

All This the power of the cross
Christ became sin for us, took the blame, bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross

Solo Oh to see the pain written on your face
Bearing the awesome weight of sin
Every bitter thought every evil deed
Crowning your blood stained brow

All This the power of the cross
Christ became sin for us, took the blame, bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross

Solo Now the day light flees, now the ground beneath
Quakes as its maker bows his head
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life
Finished, the victory cry

All This the power of the cross
Christ became sin for us, took the blame, bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross

Solo Oh to see my name written in the wounds
For through your suffering I am free
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live
Won through your selfless love

All This the power of the cross
Son of God slain for us, what a love, what a cost
We stand forgiven at the cross

Saying Sorry to God

Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess we have failed you as did your first disciples.
We ask for your mercy and your help...

We keep silence and then join together to pray:

When we take our ease
rather than watch with you:
Lord, forgive us.

All Christ have mercy.

When we bestow a kiss of peace
yet nurse enmity in our hearts:
Lord, forgive us.

All Christ have mercy.

When we strike at those who hurt us
rather than stretch out our hands to bless:
Lord, forgive us.

All Christ have mercy.

When we deny that we know you
for fear of the world and its scorn:
Lord, forgive us.

All Christ have mercy.

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive *us our* sins,
open *our* eyes to God's truth,
strengthen *us* to do God's will
and give *us* the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Prayer of the Day (the Collect)

**All Gracious Father,
You gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Hearing and Responding to the Bible

Old Testament Reading – Ezekiel, chapter 37, verses 1-14

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel.

Ezekiel knew that God's people were sad. They lived far away from home and thought they would never go back. So God said to Ezekiel: 'Look, I'm showing you a picture. What can you see?'

'A valley full of dry bones,' said Ezekiel. 'Dry bones that can't move.'

God said, 'I can make them move. I can make them into people'

As Ezekiel watched, the bones became people. But they did not move.

God said, 'Tell them to breathe so they can live, move and think.'

Ezekiel said, 'God commands you to breathe!' and as he spoke, a wind blew among the people and they came to life! They stood up and moved around.

God said, 'My people are like the dead bones. They are sad because they think they will never go home. But I will give them a new life. They will go back home and know that I love them. I am their God.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn – *Breathe on me, breath of God (no.84)*

**All Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that as you love, so may I love,
and do what you would do.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure:
until my will is one with yours,
to do and to endure.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fulfil my heart's desire,
until this earthly part of me
glows with your heav'nly fire.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
for all eternity.**

Gospel Reading – John, chapter 11, verses 1-45

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Lazarus lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. One day, Lazarus became ill. Although Jesus heard that Lazarus was very ill, he delayed visiting and stayed where he was. The last time he had been to Judea, people had tried to stone him.

After two days, Jesus said, ‘Lazarus has fallen asleep. I’m going to wake him.’

His disciples were confused. ‘Why go to such a dangerous place just to wake him up? He’ll wake up without you.’

So Jesus spelt it out: ‘Lazarus is dead. I didn’t go when he was ill because, through him, many people will see God’s glory.’

Lazarus’ sister Martha came out to meet Jesus. She said, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’

Jesus said, ‘Your brother will rise again.’

‘I know,’ answered Martha, ‘at the resurrection on the last day.’

Jesus said, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live and never die. Do you believe this?’

‘Yes, Lord,’ said Martha, ‘I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God.’

Then Martha’s sister Mary ran out to meet Jesus. She knelt at his feet crying, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’

Jesus wept with Mary. He asked, ‘Where is his tomb?’

A crowd of mourners followed Jesus to the cave where Lazarus’ body had been laid. Jesus prayed aloud, then he shouted into the cave, ‘Lazarus, come out!’

Incredibly, Lazarus walked out of the tomb, wrapped in burial cloths. Jesus said, 'Unwrap him and let him go.' And many people who saw this believed in Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Talk: Where is God when it matters? – Daniel King Smith

Affirmation of Faith

All 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.

Time to Pray

Between each petition:

All Lord in your mercy
hear our prayer.

At the end the following may be said:

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

The Peace

God makes peace within us.

All Let us claim it.

God makes peace between us.

All Let us share it.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Hymn – *God is working his purpose out (no.221)*

All God is working this purpose out,
as year succeeds to year.
God is working this purpose out,
and the day is drawing near.
Nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

From utmost east to utmost west,
wherever foot has trod,
through the mouths of his messengers
echoes forth the voice of God:
'Listen to me, ye continents,
ye islands, give ear to me,
that the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.'

How can we do the work of God,
how prosper and increase
harmony in the human race,
and the reign of perfect peace?
What can we do to urge the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea?

March we forth in the strength of God,
his banner is unfurled;
let the light of the gospel shine
in the darkness of the world:
strengthen the weary, heal the sick
and set ev'ry captive free,
that the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

All we can do is nothing worth
unless God bless the deed;
vain our hopes for the harvest tide
till he brings to life the seed.
Yet nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

Sharing in Holy Communion

Minister The Lord is here
All **God's Spirit is with us.**

Minister Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Children Why is it right to give thanks and praise?
All **Listen, and we will hear.**

Left side As the time of Christ's passion and resurrection draws near
the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty.
The power of the life-giving cross
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world
and the triumph of Christ crucified.

Right side He is the victim who dies no more,
the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever,
our advocate in heaven to plead our cause,
exalting us there to join with angels and archangels,
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.**

Left side We thank you,
loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.

Right side He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.

All **Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.**

Children Why do we share this bread and wine?

All **Listen, and we will hear.**

Minister On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.

'So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,

and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Children How do we follow Jesus Christ?
All Listen, and we will hear.

Minister Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.
And now with all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.
All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray;

All Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory
for and ever.
Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

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.

Giving of Communion

All Let us share this special meal together.
Let's remember Jesus died for us and rose again,
and is with us now.
Let's draw close to God
and to each other around God's table.

Please come forward to receive the bread and wine, or a blessing.

Going out to Serve God

For bringing us together in love.
All Thank you!

For feeding us with your very self.
All Thank you!

For the power of your Spirit.
All Thank you!

Lord, be with us on our journey of life.
As we travel with you in the coming days,
may we share your love and compassion
with those we meet whose path is hard.
Transform us, and transform them, with your life-giving love.
All Amen.

Notices

Worship Song – *King of Kings*

All In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

Praise the Father
Praise the Son

***Praise the Spirit three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings***

**To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died**

***Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings***

**And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored**

**And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint
By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me**

***Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings
Praise forever to the King of Kings***

Litany and Final Blessing

As we journey towards Jesus' passion,
All Show us your cross, Lord Jesus!

In times of fortune,
when success and comfort would draw us away
from the way of the cross,
All Show us your cross, Lord Jesus!

In darker times of trial and worry
when we feel alone,
abandoned to wander in the valley of the shadow,
All Show us your cross, Lord Jesus!

In the routine of each day,
in the work we do,
in the light of each day, and in the rest of each night,
All Show us your cross, Lord Jesus!

Heavenly Father,
as a family of believers in this congregation,
we pray that all we do together
be governed by your love for us in Christ.
**All Keep his cross before us,
so that we are always ready and eager to follow him!**

Christ crucified draw you to himself,
to find in him a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sins forgiven;

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

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Thank you for joining us in worship this morning.

If you would like to financially support the work of the church please click [HERE](#) or contact us about joining the Parish Giving Scheme.