

St Andrew's and St George's West with Albany Deaf Church

Order of Service, 17 April 2022

Easter Sunday



Gathering Music

Welcome

Call to Worship

This is Easter morning.
Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Today we proclaim
that Christ lives.
Today we celebrate
that no darkness can extinguish light,
that love will always be more powerful than death,
and that peace will be stronger than violence.

This is Easter morning.
Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Hymn Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!

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 anguish he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation has procured; Alleluia!
Now in heaven Christ is 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!

Opening Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray:

Resurrection Light

Risen Christ, when darkness overwhelms us
may your dawn beckon.

When fear paralyses us
may your touch release us.

When grief torments us
may your peace enfold us.

When memories haunt us
may your presence heal us.

When justice fails us
may your anger ignite us.

When apathy stagnates us
may your challenge renew us.

When courage leaves us
may your spirit inspire us.

When despair grips us
may your hope restore us.

And when death threatens us
may your resurrection light lead us.

May the words that Jesus taught, words that have stood the test of every time and trial, strengthen us as we pray together:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

New Testament Reading John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Seeing first hand - The three women

Seeing the green blade rising

Hymn

Now the green blade riseth

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid him, Love whom men had slain,
thinking that never he would wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain,
quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
thy 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 springeth green.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation

We stand in the resurrection garden of God -
a place suffused and shaped by love
and ripe with its potential;
and this is the table of the risen Jesus -
a place fashioned and furnished by Love
and rich with its promises...
We share these gifts of grace,
to encounter Christ,
and be healed by Love
and transformed with Life.

Communion Narrative and Thanksgiving

Before the dawn in the garden -
when Love was resurrected,
before the cold silence of the tomb -
by which Love was swallowed,
before the black horror of the cross –
on which Love was broken,
before the bitter struggle of another garden –
through which Love affirmed its choices,
Jesus, eating a final supper with his friends

blessed and broke bread and poured out a cup of wine,
sharing these tokens with them
as a confirmation of the life he had lived
and a sign of what was to come.

So, we too,
recalling that moment and honouring that life
take and break this bread (the bread is broken)
and pour out this wine (the wine is poured)
as a confirmation and sign that we are part of its ongoing story.
We remember with wonder and joy that Love, though broken on a
cross, was not defeated.
Though swallowed by death, Love was not silenced
but lives unvanquished and still speaks to all
words of welcome, healing and hope.

And so we join our voices with that of Creation
and with all those who bear witness across the world,
and throughout the ages
to the transforming power of God's love and life:

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!

Consecration

And as we rejoice and remember send down your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine that we may once again
encounter Love and be transformed.

The Sharing of the Gifts

Jesus, Love resurrected, comes to each of us
as the bread of life, and the cup of blessing.
Friends, these are the gifts of God for the people of God.
Let us eat and let us drink - both in homes and sanctuary.

(People partake, those in sanctuary coming forward to receive).

Hymn Eat this bread, drink this cup (repeated 3 times)

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.

The Sharing of the Peace

May the peace of the resurrected Jesus,
the challenging peace of committed life,
the liberating peace of selfless love,
the vibrant peace of new possibility,
transform us.

The peace of the risen Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

(We exchange a sign of peace with one another)

Prayers of thanksgiving and concern

Affirmation

**We believe in God,
who, when there was nothing,
planted the seeds of life in all creation,
and breath in the clay of human life.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
eternal seed of life,
who took into his body all our painfulness,
and lifted it into the victory of love.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit
who nourishes in us the buds of life,
and tenderly cherishes our growing
into the fruits of hope and faith.**

Hymn **Christ is alive! Let Christians sing**

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift and war,
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.

Sending and Blessing

From where we are to where you need us,

Christ be beside us.

From what we are to what you can make of us,

Christ be before us.

From old systems to new ways,

Christ be beneath us.

Through the streets of this city, and this world, to the very gates of heaven,

Christ be above us.

May Christ who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,
fill you with new life.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Son and Holy Spirit be with you
now and remain with you always.

Threefold Amen

Sending Music

Worship Leaders: Jane Brown, Rev Rosie Magee, Dorothy Tarrant
BSL Interpreter: Mary McDevitt
Scripture reader Charles Bergius
Organist: James McNeill
Technical team: Alison Bruce, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott, Amy Marcham,
Philippa Burgess, Ruth Forrester

Sources

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Opening Prayer: Annabel Shilson-Thomas/CAFOD

Scripture reading taken from the New Revised Standard Version unless otherwise stated.

Seeing first hand- The three women, from 'Stages on the way', Wild Goose Resource Group, p192.

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