

**The New Town Church of Scotland**  
**Order of Service, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024**  
**A Community of Easter Joy: *Serving the Gospel***



**Gathering music**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

Praise the LORD, all you nations!

**Extol him, all you peoples!**

For great is his steadfast love towards us,

**and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for ever.**

Praise the LORD!

*Psalm 117*

**Hymn 166** Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy

**Opening Prayer, Collect and Lord's Prayer**

***Collect for the Third Sunday of Easter***

Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
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.**

### **Sharing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you  
**and also with you**

**Hymn 253** Inspired by love and anger (vv. 1, 2, 5, 6)

### **Scripture Readings**

#### ***Isaiah 40: 6-11***

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, 'Cry out!'  
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.  
<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.  
<sup>9</sup> Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
'Here is your God!'  
<sup>10</sup> See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
<sup>11</sup> He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

**Anthem Christ who knows all his sheep Antony Baldwin**

#### ***Philippians 1: 12-30***

<sup>12</sup> I want you to know, beloved, that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the gospel, <sup>13</sup> so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ; <sup>14</sup> and most of the brothers

and sisters, having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear.

<sup>15</sup> Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. <sup>16</sup> These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defence of the gospel; <sup>17</sup> the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. <sup>18</sup> What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true; and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, <sup>19</sup> for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will result in my deliverance. <sup>20</sup> It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup> so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup> and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup> For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— <sup>30</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

**Mission Praise 1072** In Christ alone my hope is found

## **Sermon**

**Hymn 643** For me to live is Christ

## **Prayers of the People**

**Hymn 130** Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim

## **Sending and blessing**

### **Sending music**

Worship Leader: Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison

Scripture Reader: Lawrence Marshall

Prayers of the people: Susan McLarty

Organist/pianist: Jamie Turnbull

### Sources:

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

All hymns from Church Hymnary 4th Edition unless otherwise stated

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