

Edinburgh: The New Town Church  
Easter Sunday  
20th April 2025

*The First Day*

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*'God not only raised our Lord from the dead; he will also raise us by his power.'*

*1 Corinthians 6: 14*

***Call to Worship***

*(Announced from the door of the Church)*

Minister: The stone has been moved; the tomb is empty.

All: **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Minister: Rejoice, He is risen. Alleluia!

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

Minister: Let us worship almighty God.

Hymn CH4 410 Jesus Christ is risen today

*(During the first Hymn the Bible is carried in)*

***Welcome***

***We bring to God our Prayers of Adoration, Confession, and the Collect***

Almighty God, who through your only begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of his resurrection, may be raised to new life by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***First Thoughts***

Hymn CH4 420 Earth, earth, awake; your praises sing

***We hear The Word of God***

Gospel Lesson St John Chapter 20 verses 1 – 18

Anthem      *The strife is o'er by Henry Ley*

Sermon      *The First Day*

Intimations

*The Sacrament of Holy Communion*

As we prepare to come together, to join with each other, with our saviour, and with the whole communion of Saints at this the table of our Lord we pause and take a moment to declare our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed, so if you are able, I ask you now to stand as you are able and speak these ancient words of trust and faith:

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord,  
Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit  
and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic  
and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### Invitation

We come this morning in need,  
In need of sustenance and hope,  
In need of God's care and love.

So we come,  
To draw close to God the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit.  
To know God and be with God,  
Where Jesus has called us to meet him.

As if this were the only time, and this  
the only place, and we the only people,  
Jesus Christ will meet us.

The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready.

It is the table of company with Jesus  
And with all those who love him.  
It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world,  
with whom Jesus identified himself.

It is the table of communion with the earth  
in which Christ became incarnate.

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.

It is ready for those who love Him,  
and those who want to love Him more.

So, come to this table, you who have much faith  
And you who would like to have more;  
You who have been to this sacrament often,  
You who have never been before,  
And you who have not been for a long time;  
You who have tried to follow Jesus,  
and you who have failed.

Come not because it is I who invite you:  
it is our Lord.

It is His will that those who want Him should meet with Him here.

**Hymn**            CH4 19 Ye gates

### **The Grace and Prayer**

Let us join now in communion to accept Jesus' invitation, and all feel called, invited, and welcome, each by name, at this, his table.

### **Institution**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Let us pray:  
Loving Lord,  
through the life of  
Your dear Son  
You have shown us a way forward  
to hope through faith.

As we approach You,  
As we are,  
Assure us of Your mercy,  
and sanctify us by  
Your heavenly grace.

Out of the fullness of Your gifts,  
we make our offerings to You,

*(Unveil Elements)*

and present this bread and this wine,  
for all things come from You,  
and of Your own we give You.  
Blessed be Your holy name for ever.  
Through Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
Amen

Hear now the words of the institution of the Lord's Supper,  
according to St Paul:

"The tradition which I handed on to you came to me from the Lord himself:  
that on the night of his arrest  
the Lord Jesus took bread,  
and after giving thanks to God, broke it and said:  
'This is my body, which is for you; do this in memory of me.'  
In the same way, he took the cup after supper, and said:  
'This cup is the new covenant  
sealed by my blood.

Whenever you drink it, do this in memory of me.' For every time you eat this bread  
and drink the cup,  
you proclaim the death of the Lord,

until he comes. *1 Corinthians 11: 23 - 26*

### **Taking of the Bread and Wine**

As the Lord Jesus, the same night in which He was betrayed took bread,  
I take these elements of bread and wine,  
to be set apart from all common uses  
to this holy use and mystery;  
and as he gave thanks and blessed,  
let us draw near to God  
and offer him our prayers and thanksgiving.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer**

The Lord be with you:

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts:

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God:

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Let us pray:

Loving God,

We give You our thanks,  
that in the creation of the world,  
You laid the earth's foundation  
and set its corner-stone in place,  
the morning stars sang in chorus  
and the angels of God all shouted for joy.

By the power of Your Spirit,

You made the universe;

by the might of Your Word,

You gave us life.

We give thanks that

in the new creation,  
when You gave Your Son  
to raise us up again,  
since we, and all  
our human race had fallen,  
You claimed us for Your own people;  
that we might be called  
out of darkness into  
His marvellous light.

And today especially we give thanks  
for the glorious resurrection of your Son.  
He who was dead is alive again  
and lives for evermore.  
By his death he has destroyed the power of death.  
By his rising again  
he has opened the way to your kingdom  
and brought us the gift of eternal life.  
By his victory over the grave,  
the world is being renewed,  
and we are once again made whole.

Therefore we praise you,  
joining our voices with choirs of angels,  
with prophets, apostles, and martyrs,  
and with all the faithful of every time and place,  
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**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.**

We bless You for Your Son,  
our Saviour.

For His incarnation among us  
and His birth,  
For His perfect life on earth,  
His suffering for us,  
and His triumph over death;  
for His ascension  
to Your right hand  
and His gift of the Holy Spirit;  
and for the promise of  
His coming again.

Send down your Holy Spirit  
to bless us  
and these your gifts of bread and wine,  
that the bread which we break  
may be for us the communion  
of the body of Christ,  
and the cup of blessing which we bless,  
the communion of the blood of Christ;  
that we, receiving them,  
by faith may be made partakers  
of his body and blood,  
with all his benefits,  
to nourish us  
and help us grow in grace,  
to the glory of your most holy name.

And here we offer and present to you  
our very selves,  
to be a living sacrifice,  
dedicated and fit for your acceptance;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today we pray for all those  
Who are in pain,  
All those bereaved,  
All those who fear,  
All those who worry,



All those who suffer  
With isolation  
Disease, poverty, or war,

As we share in this meal  
Let us remember  
That they are named,  
And have a place among us  
And that in your grace  
You send us and all your people  
To help and to heal.  
As we rejoice in your  
Glorious presence with us always.

In union with your church in heaven and on earth,  
we pray, O God, that you will fulfil  
your eternal purpose in us and in all the world.  
Keep us faithful in your service  
until Christ comes at the last,  
and we shall feast with all your saints  
in the joy of your eternal realm.  
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour are yours, almighty Father,  
now and forever.  
Amen

### **The Lord's Prayer**

And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

**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.

### Breaking the Bread

*(The minister holds up the bread and wine, and says:)*

Holy things of God  
for the holy people of God.

**Only Jesus Christ is holy;  
we are made holy in him.**

*(Return Elements to table)*

According to the institution,  
example, and command of our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as a memorial of Him,  
we do this:

On the night when He was betrayed, He took bread,

*(Take bread and raise it)*

and when He had given thanks, He broke it,

*(Break bread)*

and said: 'This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.'

In the same way He took the cup

*(Raise cup)*

saying: 'This cup is the new covenant sealed by My blood.

Do this as often as you drink it,

in remembrance of Me.'

(Put cup down)

Jesus, Lamb of God,

**have mercy on us.**

Jesus, bearer of our woes,

**have mercy on us.**

Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
**grant us peace.**

## **Communion**

*(Minister Takes Communion)*

Draw near with faith and share in the mystery:  
receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which was given for you,  
and his blood which was shed for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith,  
with thanksgiving.

*(Serve Elders communion)*

*(Take Bread)*

Take, eat. This is the body of Christ which was broken for you.

*(Take Cup)*

This cup is the new covenant sealed by Christ's blood which was shed for you.

*(Take Bread and Cup and raise them saying:)*

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*(All Share in Communion)*

## **The Peace and Prayers**

Peace to you from God our heavenly Parent.

Peace from Jesus Christ who is our peace.

Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.

Not an easy peace,  
not an insignificant peace,  
not a half-hearted peace,  
but the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
Let us now share with each other a sign of Christ's own peace.

## **Prayer**

Let us pray

Gracious God,  
we thank You  
for the love which reminds us  
of food from heaven,  
and the assurance that  
we belong to the company  
of all Christ's faithful people  
in heaven and on earth.

Grant that, strengthened  
by this fellowship  
and by the power of His Holy Spirit,  
we may continue  
His work in the world,  
faithful to all the promises  
we have made to You,  
and brought in time to the glory  
of Your eternal kingdom.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

Hymn            CH4 419 Thine be the glory

*Benediction and Sung Amen*

Worship Leaders: Rev'd Dr Conor Fegan

Scripture Reader: Kate Anderson

Prayers of the people: Jane Brown

Organist/pianist: David Stewart

*Sources:*

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

All hymns from Church Hymnary 4th Edition (CH4) unless otherwise stated. GWA - God Welcomes All, supplement to CH4.

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