

Sunday Worship for 11 April 2021

The Second Sunday of Easter

WELCOME

Rev Jessica Smith, Curate at St Francis of Assisi Church, Strood

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

The Lord be with you.

The president briefly introduces the service

SONG

Come people of the risen King

Sung by Katie Ritson

Come, people of the risen King,
Who delight to bring Him praise.
Come, all and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!

Come, those whose joy is morning sun
And those weeping through the night.
Come, those who tell of battles won,
And those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change,
And His mercies never cease,
But follow us through all our days
With the certain hope of peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!

Come, young and old from every land,
Men and women of the faith.
Come, those with full or empty hands,
Find the riches of His grace.

Over all the world, His people sing,
Shore to shore we hear them call
The Truth that cries through every age;
'Our God is all in all!'

Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!

*Words and Music Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend
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The president says

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Silence is kept.

Like Mary at the empty tomb,
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.
Lord, have mercy.
All Lord, have mercy.

Like the disciples behind locked doors,
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.
Christ, have mercy.
All Christ, have mercy.

Like Thomas in the upper room,
we are slow to believe.
Lord, have mercy.
All Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
and bring you to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All Amen.

REFLECTION

Given by Mrs Antonietta Ogundimu, Deputy Head of Specialist Mental Health Assessment and Placements Team NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Given by Mr Rod White

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (4.32-35)

All the believers were agreed in heart and mind. They didn't claim that anything they had was their own. Instead, they shared everything they owned. With great power the apostles continued their teaching. They were telling people that the Lord Jesus had risen from the dead. And God's grace was working powerfully in all of them. So there were no needy persons among them. From time to time, those who owned land or houses sold them. They brought the money from the sales. They put it down at the apostles' feet. It was then given out to anyone who needed it.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

Given by Mrs Emma Weller, Deputy Manager of a Children's Nursery

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Read by Miss Ibiye Dokubo

The gospeller says

A reading from the Gospel according to John. (20.19-31)

On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, "May peace be with you!" Then he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were very happy when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "May peace be with you! The Father has sent me. So I am now sending you." Then he breathed on them. He said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Thomas was one of the 12 disciples. He was also called Didymus. He was not with the other disciples when Jesus came. So they told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "First I must see the nail marks in his hands. I must put my finger where the nails were. I must put my hand into his side. Only then will I believe."

A week later, Jesus' disciples were in the house again. Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, "May peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. See my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed."

Jesus performed many other signs in front of his disciples. They are not written down in this book. But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. If you believe this, you will have life because you belong to him.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Given by Rev. Jessica Smith, with Theo, Nathan, Jayden, Anouka

Wondering Questions:

- *I wonder what your favourite part of the story is?*
- *I wonder what the most important part of the story is?*
- *I wonder what we learn about Jesus from this story?*
- *I wonder what we learn about us from this story?*
- *I wonder if there's anything we need to do now after hearing this story?*

DECLARATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

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.**

SONG

O Praise the Name (Anastasis)

Sung by Katie Ritson

I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me
I see His wounds His hands His feet
My Saviour on that cursed tree

His body bound and drenched in tears
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb
The entrance sealed by heavy stone
Messiah still and all alone

O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God

Then on the third at break of dawn
The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death where is your sting?
The angels roar for Christ the King

O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God

He shall return in robes of white
The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

*Dean Ussher, Marty Sampson and Benjamin Hastings
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PRAYERS

Led by Rev Jessica Smith, with Mr Simon Cave, Mr Kobina & Mrs Janet Kumi-Mensah, Mrs Cathy Kinnon, Mr Giovanni & Mrs Louisa Parrales

The response to each prayer:

Lord in your mercy,
All hear our prayer.

The president prays

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer is said

All **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.
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.**

SONG

Thine Be the Glory

Sung by Katie Ritson

Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son:
Endless is the victory, 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 her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son:
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.*

No more we doubt thee, glorious prince of life!
Life is nought without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son:
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.*

*Words: Edmund L Budry (1854-1932), translated by Richard B Hoyle (1875-1939)
Tune: Based on Maccabeus, by G. F Handel*

God the Father,
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

We are raised to new life in Christ.
Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Service led Rev Jessica Smith, Curate at St Francis of Assisi Church, Strood.

With thanks to Given by Mrs Antonietta Ogundimu, Deputy Head of Specialist Mental Health Assessment and Placements Team NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group, Mr Rod White, Mrs Emma Weller, Deputy Manager of a Children's Nursery, Miss Ibiye Dokubo, Theo, Nathan, Jayden, Anouka, Mr Simon Cave, Mr Kobina & Mrs Janet Kumi-Mensah, Mrs Cathy Kinnon, Mr Giovanni & Mrs Louisa Parrales.

Music Performed by by Katie Ritson.

BSL Interpretation by Esther Rose Bevan.

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