

Morning Worship
Sunday 16th April 2023
2nd Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 2: 14a, 22-32

Gospel: John 20: 19-31

Hymn: **Faithful One**

(Click link) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PjSO5Ihl0M>

The Greeting:

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you

And also with you.

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Let us rejoice and sing God's praise for ever.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Prayer:

Almighty God,

your Son has opened for us

a new and living way into your presence.

Give us new hearts and constant wills

to worship you in spirit and truth;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn: **All Heaven Declares**

(Click link) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kPkZAJA610k>

Invitation to Confession:

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God.

Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil

and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Confession:

Like Mary at the empty tomb,

we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Like the disciples behind locked doors,

we are afraid to be seen as your followers.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Like Thomas in the upper room,

we are slow to believe.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution:

May the Father forgive us

by the death of his Son

and strengthen us

to live in the power of the Spirit

all our days.

Amen.

First Reading: Acts 2: 14a, 22-32

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them.

²² 'You that are Israelites,^[a] listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law.

²⁴ But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,

"I saw the Lord always before me,

for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;

moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,

or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;

you will make me full of gladness with your presence."

²⁹ 'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

"He was not abandoned to Hades,

nor did his flesh experience corruption."

³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: John 20: 19-end

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸ Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Talk: Jenny Pratt, Licenced Lay Minister

(Click link) https://youtu.be/V-wL-Kyd_Qs

Song: Cornerstone

(Click link) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3HH_-1Zbs

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ died for our sins

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he was buried;

he was raised to life on the third day

in accordance with the Scriptures;

afterwards he appeared to his followers,

and to all the apostles:

this we have received,

and this we believe.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession:

Let us pray for the Church and for the world and let us thank God for His goodness.

In joy and hope we pray.

We pray to the Father;

Hear our prayer.

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his glorious
and life-giving resurrection ...

We pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That isolated and persecuted churches
may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter...

We pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That God may grant us humility
to be subject to one another in Christian love ...
We pray to the Father.
Hear our prayer.

That he may provide for those who lack food,
work, or shelter ...
We pray to the Father.
Hear our prayer.

That by his power war and famine
may cease through all the world ...
We pray to the Father.
Hear our prayer.

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick,
the weak and the dying, to comfort and strengthen them ...
We pray to the Father.
Hear our prayer.

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people,
So that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection.
We pray to the Father.
Hear our prayer.

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

The Collect:

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.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as 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 forever.

Amen.

Usually, at this point in the service, we take up our offering.

Let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves and all that we offer to God and give Him thanks.

Offertory Hymn: Lord I Come to You (The Power of Your Love)

(Click link) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSi-9PPPGnI>

Blessing:

May Christ,
who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,
fill you with his new life;
and the blessing of God almighty;
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen

Hymn: Lord I Lift Your Name on High

(Click link) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ch1Qd9_1H24

*As we come to the end of this service we can fellowship with each other in Spirit,
while we drink tea, coffee and enjoy a biscuits take a moment to pray for others.*