

24th April, 2022

The paper-version Service

To Begin: Find a Bible and a comfortable



place. If safe, light a candle and read prayerfully through the service. If you have access to worship music, choose a song and listen to it as you begin or read, or even sing, the song from this Sunday's Service set out below.

Opening Prayer: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song:

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure

How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished

His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Read Revelation 1: 4-8 and John 20: 19-31

The sermon given by Rev. Roy Lewis: Live ...

The words of the creed are very familiar to so many of us, but here is a reminder of a part of the Apostles Creed:-

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

The last few lines remind us of the great fact that after Jesus died He rose from the dead – never to return to the grave. It is a foundation of our Christian faith.

How did the resurrection of Jesus affect those early followers of Jesus, and how does it affect our lives almost 2000 years later?

It is possible it could be merely part of the creed that we read, or even recite; but it can be far more than that.

The resurrection of Jesus is transformational!

The evening of the Sunday morning Jesus rose, those early followers of Jesus were meeting together. They were in a locked room and full of fear; many of them had deserted Jesus, and when He died only the women and John remained. The others had fled.

I guess there was a great sense not only of fear, but of failure; and of course there was doubt. I know Thomas has the proven reputation of doubting but somehow I suspect many of the others also had doubts.

Jesus appeared and spoke His Peace to them.

I suppose many of us today know fear – two years of a rampant epidemic that has brought fear to many; and now a war on the Eastern part of Europe, the consequence of which is causing many to be afraid.

Maybe you are experiencing Fear; possibly failure as well as doubt. “I don’t know what to believe any longer and sometimes ask ‘Where is God’ ”



But maybe Jesus is outside a locked door in many of our lives and He wants to come near to assure us of His Presence and speak His peace into our hearts and minds. "Peace be with you!" Jesus said it then, and still says it now.

John was the last surviving disciple who lived until he was an old man; he wrote his Gospel many years after the events he wrote about had taken place.

At the end of chapter 20 here is what is written:-

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John summarised his reason for writing this gospel – that we – you and I, would believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing we may have life in His name.

That is life that is eternal and has the resurrection quality that Jesus brings.

There is a second Bible reading, again written by John, in the final and climactic book of Revelation.

Revelation 1 verses 4 - 7

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. "Look, he is coming with the clouds," and "every eye will see him, even those who pierced him"; and all peoples on earth "will mourn because of him." So shall it be! Amen.

This is such an amazing and inspiring part of the Bible and another summary of the Gospel of Jesus and what He has done for us – He loves us: he has freed us, forgiven us, of our sins, and has given us the hope of a wonderful future ahead.

And – He, Jesus, will one day come again.

Prayers: *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.* (Philippians 4:4-6)



- Pray for this day, and the coming week.
- Pray for justice, mercy, peace, and hope.
- Pray for individuals, for neighbours, for family and friends.
- Pray for the Church.

Collect: 2nd Sunday of Easter:



Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy

Spirit, one God, now and for ever. 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 for ever. Amen.*

Blessing to be declared over yourselves, The Good Shepherd, the communities around us and our whole nation. 'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.' (Numbers 6:24-26 NIV).

The Notices: We are now holding services in the building on Sundays at 8am and 9.30am, and are live streaming the 9.30 service. This Paper Service will continue for the moment and is generally available the week after the service.

- Coffee & Questions: 27th April at 11am, Church Hall.
- Tea and Chat and Bowls: Wed. 18th May at 2pm, Church Hall.
- COGS Tots: 2nd Mondays. COGS Tinytots: Monday mornings.
- Messy Church: Second Sundays of the month.
- Next Tea and Praise: To be advised.