

**ST CUTHBERT'S
SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
COLINTON**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter
Wednesday 21 & Sunday 25 April
2021
10.30am**



*COVID-19
Services in Church and
online on our YouTube Channel*

Welcome to this service, where we are pleased to be able to gather together to worship God. We are only allowed to do this because precautions have been put into place to protect each other as sisters and brothers in Christ during the pandemic. Please follow the guidelines given on the order of service and verbally by the worship leader or welcomers. Face coverings must be worn throughout the service.

Please stand as the clergy enters.

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

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

Please sit

As we are not allowed to sing, please reflect on the words of the hymn and enjoy the music as Philip plays the organ.

HYMN 266 – Good Christians all, rejoice and sing

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing.
Now is the triumph of our King.
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia!

The Lord of Life is ris'n for ay:
bring flowers of song to strew his way;
let humankind rejoice and say:
Alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory
that Love, that Life, which cannot die
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia!

Thy name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord
the life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia!

*Cyril Argentine Alington (1872-1955) alt.
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COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

God is love and we are God's children.
There is no room for fear in love.
We love because God loved us first.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**God our Father, we confess to you
and to our fellow members in the body of Christ
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do.**

We are truly sorry.

Forgive us our sins,

and deliver us from the power of evil.

For the sake of your Son who died for us,

Jesus Christ, our Lord.

God, who is both power and love,
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by the Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Please stand

GLORIA (Said)

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do your will, and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit

First Reading: 4.5-12

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone." There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 John 3.16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

As we are not allowed to sing, please reflect on the words of the hymn and enjoy the music as Philip plays the organ.

GRADUAL HYMN 355 – In heavenly love abiding

In heavenly love abiding,
no change my heart shall fear;
and safe is such confiding,
for nothing changes here.

The storm may roar without me,
my heart may low be laid,
but God is round about me,
and can I be dismayed?

Wherever he may guide me,
no want shall turn me back;
my Shepherd is beside me,
and nothing shall I lack.

His wisdom ever waketh,
his sight is never dim,
he knows the way he taketh,
and I will walk with him.

Green pastures are before me,
which yet I have not seen;
bright skies will soon be o'er me,
where the dark clouds have been.

My hope I cannot measure,
my path to life is free,
my Saviour has my treasure,
and he will walk with me.

Anna Laetitia Waring (1820-1910) based on Psalm 23
©Copyright 2008 Kevin Mayhew Ltd, Anglican Hymns Old & New

Please stand

Gospel: John 10.11-18

Hear the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

SERMON

Please sit

Today, the fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday, obvious from the readings I hear you say, but it is also Vocations Sunday in the church and those lucky enough to be present on Sunday, will hear Rachael Wright talk about her vocation. Rachael is the Scottish Episcopal Institute student who received the first grant from us this year. But don't worry, you won't miss out, as she has also written an article for The Sign next month.

Discernment is a word that is used often in the church – we discern our call, whether that be a call to priesthood, vestry, property committee or coffee rota – we prayerfully discern our call. What is God calling me to? Or, how can I serve God best with the gifts I have?

Well, as most of you know, I was 'encouraged' into discerning my call to the priesthood, as it was not something that had come into my mind, but obviously had come into others!

Having watched the funeral of Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on Saturday, seeing Windsor Castle and St. George's Chapel, it reminded me of my journey of discernment, so I thought I would share some of it with you, this Vocation's Sunday.

I had to visit Windsor Castle for an appointment with the Bishop to the Forces and Dean of Windsor, Bishop David Connor, for him to approve my call to the priesthood. I was very nervous, to say the least!

I remember approaching the police at the entrance and the long daunting walk toward the castle to knock on his door. He took me into his huge office, filled with antiques – one table apparently belonging to Thomas Cromwell. His wife served tea and cake and left us to the interview. Truthfully, I can't remember a lot of what he said, as I was so nervous, but I do remember he gave me a private tour of St. George's Chapel and then, just as I was about to leave, he asked me if I believed in hell! 'Is this a trick question', I wondered? Flustered, I remember saying, I believe hell is any place without God, without love – and left.

Up to this point, I had gone through many meetings and interviews to discern my vocation and had thought I would be turned away at each one. I felt the same here, but as I am standing in front of you, I obviously wasn't.

In fact, I continued to feel the same through my Bishop's Advisory Panel, a three-day event where more interviews and assessments are carried out to test your call. Obviously God had other plans for me and saw gifts that I was unaware of!

So, on Good Shepherd Sunday we hope and pray that the Good Shepherd will send others to pastor and watch over his flock, as he sent the disciples so long ago and continues to send people of all ages, abilities and descriptions. The Good Shepherd doesn't want those who are called to run away from his sheep but protect and love them.

Being a priest is a huge privilege. As a priest you become intimately involved in the lives of your parishioners in extraordinary ways. You share the most important moments of people's lives, journeying through sorrows as well as joys, failures as well as successes.

And as I reflect on my relatively short life as an ordained minister, (12 years) being called later in life and married with children, I wonder how different it is for each ordained person.

Yes, priesthood is a huge privilege and by the grace of God, I have been given the gift needed to fulfil my role – love. I love people, especially those I have been called to serve. But a wise man once told me that my first calling is always my family.

And here lies the problem. As a wife, mother and grandmother, I believe my responsibilities are different to a male priest, despite equality. I'm not saying either is right or wrong, just different.

I'm not sure many men would be asked if it was their day off because they were doing their weekly shop at Sainsbury's. I am, even when wearing my collar.

I was 'warned' while training that female priests shouldn't offer to make the tea at meetings because it will be expected. I just think it is a polite thing to do but have seen examples of why I was told this.

I'm not going to make this an equality sermon, as I enjoy having doors held open for me, being allowed to enter first and my husband walking on the outside of the pavement (as I do with my adult children!). I think its manners and nothing to do with equality, but I do think our ministries are lived differently.

Jesus laid down his life for us. I am pleased to say there is not that expectation of me nowadays but sacrifices do have to be made by myself and my family for me to live my vocation, my role as an ordained priest – and I know I am not alone in this.

However, regardless of those sacrifices, I still give thanks to God each day for my call, my gifts, my family and my Church and truly try to live in love, not in word or speech but in truth and action.

Maybe you can consider what you are being called to do in your lives, in our church to serve God, on this Vocations Sunday. Amen.

Revd. Nicki McNelly

(we pause to listen to a short piece of music for personal reflection)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Please stand

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.

Please sit or kneel

INTERCESSIONS

*(The response to 'We thank you, Lord' is '**We thank you for everything, always.**)*

Living God and source of all life. We thank you for your warm touch, that opens our eyes and hearts to see your risen glory, witnessed by your disciples. We thank you for your wondrous power to regenerate, so evident in our gardens and green pastures at this time of year. We thank you for the brilliance of the scientists, whose vaccine against Covid means so much to us.

For these gifts, we thank you, Lord.

We thank you for everything, always.

Living God, in your presence we confess that in our daily lives we do not always support one another. We may seek to control rather than to serve and to divide rather than to unite. Help us to be more like your apostles whose time together was filled with harmony, generosity and gladness, despite the suffering they endured in your name.

For their inspirational legacy, we thank you, Lord.

We thank you for everything, always.

Living God, in our selfishness we continue to go our own ways, often oblivious of what Christ taught us. Help us to be faithful in our role as carers and to protect your wonderful world for future generations. Help us to remember that your goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives.

For your good shepherding, we thank you, Lord.

We thank you for everything, always.

Living God, we pray for the needy and those suffering in the world, for the hungry and the thirsty, for refugees, for the homeless, especially those in war zones. We pray for the unemployed and the unemployable, for the victims of alcoholism and drug abuse. We pray for the sick all over the world, especially in those countries where Covid is still rife. We pray for the Queen, whose 95th birthday is today, as she continues to mourn the loss of her beloved husband, the Duke of Edinburgh. Indeed, we pray for all those who have lost loved ones, to whom you offer great comfort.

For your kindness and mercy, we thank you, Lord.

We thank you for everything, always.

Living God, help us to count our blessings and to use our gifts for the good of others. Help us to obey Christ's commandments by spreading your message of love, mercy and peace. Help us to do this by what we do as well as what we say. We have the wonderful example of the apostles, many of whom gave their lives to teach your word.

For your comforting guidance, we thank you, Lord.

We thank you for everything, always.

Merciful father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son Jesus Christ, who died for us and rose in glory. **Amen.**

Caroline Seville

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

As we are not allowed to sing, please reflect on the words of the hymn and enjoy the music as Philip plays the organ.

OFFERTORY HYMN 494 – Love's redeeming work is done

Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won:
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,
lo, he sets in blood no more.

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened paradise.

Lives again our glorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once, he all doth save;
where the victory, O grave?

Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
praise to thee by both be giv'n;
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection thou!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

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Please stand

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made;
it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands;
it will become the cup of our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, Author of all being.

Your power sustains, your love restores, our broken world.

You are unceasingly at work, from chaos bringing order and filling emptiness with life.

Christ, raised from the dead, proclaims the dawn of hope.

He lives in us that we may walk in light. Your Spirit is fire in

us, your breath is power to purge our sin and warm our hearts to love.

As children of your redeeming purpose, freed by him who burst from the tomb and opened the gate of life, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory:

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.

Please sit

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, Lord of all, for by the Cross, eternal life is ours and death is swallowed up in victory. In the first light of Easter glory broke from the tomb and changed the women's sorrow into joy. From the Garden the mystery dawned that he whom they had loved and lost is with us now in every place for ever.

Making himself known in the breaking of the bread, speaking peace to the fearful disciples, welcoming weary fishermen on the shore, he renewed the promise of his presence and of new birth in the Spirit who sets the seal of freedom on your sons and daughters.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, recalling the night of Israel's release, the night in which slaves walked free, at supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks.

He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:

"Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying:

"Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

**We now obey your Son's command.
We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts
and with them ourselves, a single, holy living sacrifice.**

Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

**Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles and prophets, Saint Cuthbert and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. **Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.
Lord, unite us in this sign.

LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us,
we are bold to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

**Lamb of God; you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God; you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God; you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

INVITATION

The gifts of God for the people of God. All are welcome to receive.

Music for the sharing of Communion.

Please remain in your seat to receive Communion in one form only. The worship leader will bring it to you. Keep your face covering on until the person bringing the wafer has moved away and then you can lift it to eat the wafer.

THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

Give thanks to our gracious God
Whose mercy endures for ever.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of steadfast love, watch over the Church redeemed by the blood of your Son. May we who share in these holy mysteries come safely to your eternal kingdom, where there is one flock and one shepherd. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!
In the name of Christ.
Alleluia! Alleluia!



St Cuthbert's Notes 25 April 2021

Foodbank:

Thank you to everybody who contributed to the £215 I was able to transfer to the foodbank account at the beginning of this month. Our May cash collection will take place next weekend. Susan Clark

YouTube:

Join the full service each week online, (recording of the Wednesday service) using this link to our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3iPQOkQiVERjeHZbj2OnBQ>