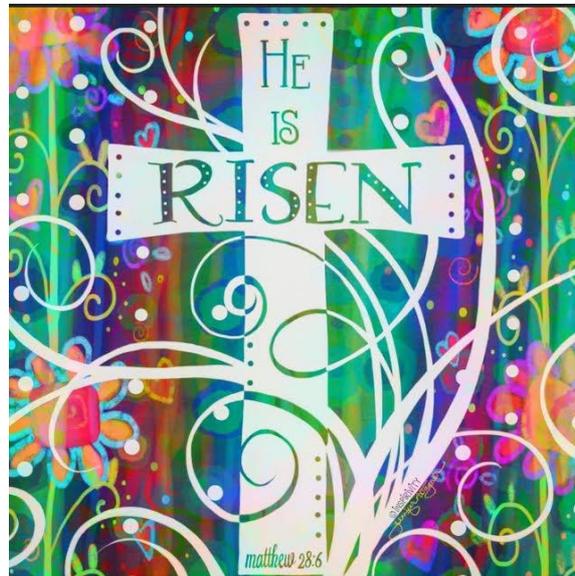


**ST CUTHBERT'S
SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
COLINTON**

**Second Sunday of Easter
Wednesday 7 & Sunday 11 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.

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

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

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 390 – Jesus lives! thy terrors now

Jesus lives! thy terrors now
can no more, O death appal us;
Jesus lives! by this we know
thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us.
Alleluia.

Jesus lives! henceforth is death
but the gate of life immortal:
this shall calm our trembling breath,
when we pass its gloomy portal.
Alleluia.

Jesus lives! for us he died;
then, alone to Jesus living,
pure in the heart may we abide,
glory to our Saviour giving.
Alleluia.

Jesus lives! our hearts know well
naught from us his love shall sever;
life nor death nor powers of hell
tear us from his keeping ever.
Alleluia.

Jesus lives! to him the throne
over all the world is given:
may we go where he is gone,
rest and reign with him in heaven.
Alleluia.

*Christian Furchtegott Gellert (1715-1769) trans. Frances Elizabeth Cox (1812-1897) 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.

Please sit or kneel

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 his 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

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit

First Reading: Acts 4. 32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 John 1.1-2.2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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 391 – Jesus, Lord, we look to thee

Jesus, Lord, we look to thee,
let us in thy name agree;
show thyself the Prince of Peace;
bid all strife for ever cease.

Make us of one heart and mind,
courteous, merciful and kind,
lowly, meek in thought and word,
altogether like our Lord.

Let us for each other care,
each the other's burden bear;
to thy Church the pattern give,
show how true believers live.

Free from anger and from pride,
let us thus in God abide;
all the depths of love express,
all the heights of holiness.

Charles Wesley (1707-178)

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Please stand

Gospel: John 20.19-31

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

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

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.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me,

so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 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.’

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.’ 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.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ 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.’ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 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.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Please sit

SERMON

Last Sunday, the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we proclaimed with joy and wonder: “Alleluia, Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**” That was the theme for the day, that was the truth renewed and declared. The stone is rolled away! The Lord is alive! And what we have is an empty tomb.

And so when we read the story of what happened next, when Jesus came into the house and stood among his disciples, we have to wonder what was going through their minds. After all, these were the same disciples who had seen their friend flogged and crucified and then the women found the tomb empty.

And then, as we read in the Gospel of John today: “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. ... Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.” They got it! They finally believed!

But not all. Just as there are disbelievers of our current pandemic and the vaccines, there is a disbeliever in their midst in today’s story: Thomas. No sooner does one believe than another does not, and these back-and-forth tales persist throughout the Christian story.

Thomas hadn't seen, so wasn't going to believe. There is no record of the other disciples' response to this, but they could hardly claim the moral high ground. Looking back in John's story only a few sentences, we read that Jesus showed them his hands and his side. It was only *then* that the disciples "rejoiced when they saw the Lord."

What is it about proof? Why do these disciples – the ones who were closest to Jesus, who walked with him, ate at table with him, listened to the wisdom of his preaching – require something more in order to believe?

In his collection of essays "*A Grief Observed*," C.S. Lewis wrote:

"You never know how much you really believe anything until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life and death to you. It is easy to say you believe a rope to be strong and sound as long as you are merely using it to cord a box. But suppose that you had to hang by that rope over a precipice. Wouldn't you then first discover how much you really trusted it?"

Such is faith.

What is necessary for us to believe? We can all practice religion: That's what we're doing now, in acting out worship and remembering Christ in the Eucharist. That is the stuff of identifying ourselves as Episcopalian or Church of Scotland, or Baptist or any of a myriad of Christian labels and

distinctions. All of us who call ourselves Christian are not necessarily converted to faith.

Tongue in cheek, we might claim that there is complete agreement in this church and every other church about whether to wear robes, whether to have candles on the altar, or whether to have an altar at all. But those are the things of religion. And yet, so often those are the things that divide us, that get in the way of Christian believing and Christian community. But Jesus was not concerned so much with matters of religion, as he was with matters of faith.

Think back on the stories of Jesus, his ministry, his interactions with people. Do you remember the stories of the Pharisees criticising Jesus for eating food that was unwashed, for healing on the Sabbath, for sharing a meal and associating with those who were considered the less desirable people of society? And do you remember how Jesus responded each time?

Those challenging Jesus were just trying to trap him. Those are not the things that are important. Those are not the things of the Kingdom of God. Love and faith is what matters.

In the season of Easter, we tell stories not of religion, but of faith and believing. Of standing at the entrance to the tomb, and deciding whether to go in. Of being closed in the house with the disciples and greeting our Lord. Of the women, the only ones who believed without question or denial. Of Peter

and the other disciples. Of Thomas, called “Doubting Thomas,” because he demanded to see and touch.

May each of us this Easter season come to know the Risen Christ in a new way. This last year may have caused us to question, to doubt and to wonder. All those are essential for our faith but may the event of Easter be a unifying experience, to bring together the Body of Christ, instead of breaking it again on the cross. As restrictions start to ease, may the joy of Easter bring us back together as a worshipping community of faith.

May we celebrate our differences that will be honoured in the gathering of Pentecost and the sanctification of the Holy Spirit at the end of this season.

May we remember that it is Jesus Christ who unites us as Lord and Saviour, so that we cling to our faith more firmly than we do to our religion.

And may we think about something in this Easter season: How will we put ourselves into the story? What does it take for us to believe?

We stand at the entrance to the tomb. We have heard the testimony of the women. We know what the disciples know. What is our story of faith? What is our response to the Easter news?

Amen.

Revd. Nicki McNelly

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**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 Hear us, Risen Lord is: **Come, stand among us.**)*

**Risen Lord, Come stand among us,
Awaken us to your presence
Open to us the gate of glory
Show us the path of life
Help us to know you are with us now and always.**

We give thanks for the resurrection of Jesus Christ and for the transforming hope he brings into our broken world. We ask that we too, like the disciples who were fearfully hiding behind locked doors, may hear His words, “peace be with you” and grow more aware of His presence in our lives. As we are able worship here together and slowly begin to spend time with families and friends may we be bearers of your peace, more confident than ever of your unconditional love for us all.

Hear us, Risen Lord; **Come, stand among us.**

Risen Lord Jesus, we give thanks for this place of refreshment, for Bishop John, Nicki, Margaret, Caroline, and all those who lead your church locally and more widely. May they be inspired, encouraged and empowered to build communities of transforming love.

Hear us, Risen Lord; **Come, stand among us.**

We pray for our world and for those in positions of influence that they may be challenged to take decisions that bring peace and justice to all people. We continue to pray for all those suffering from the pandemic- who have lost loved ones, good health, economic security, and we pray that the vaccination programme reaches those in the poorest places. We pray for transformational change in places of conflict, especially Myanmar and Syria.

Hear us, Risen Lord; **Come, stand among us.**

We pray for young people who have been struggling without the support of friendships and the routine of daily schooling, and for the many who are now suffering from fear, anxiety, depression. Be with our youngsters and bless them as they move forward. May they discover for themselves that you can bring a real sense of hope and peace to their lives.

Hear us, Risen Lord; **Come, stand among us.**

We pray for ourselves that at this season of Easter we may be filled with a renewed sense of excitement that you are our Risen Lord, that despite our questions, doubts, and “unknowing”, we are willing to be send out in his name and share his compassionate love with others day by day.

Hear us, Risen Lord; **Come, stand among us.**

Lord of compassion, in a few moments quiet, we bring before you those we know who are in need of your healing touch, and we pray for those who are lonely, afraid, grieving, sick.

Heavenly father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our savior, Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

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 51 – At the Lamb's high feast we sing

At the Lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our victorious King,
who hast washed us in the tide
flowing from his pierced side;
praise we him, whose love divine
gives his sacred blood for wine,
gives his body for the feast,
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.

Where the paschal blood is poured,
death's dark angel sheathes his sword;
faithful hosts triumphant go
through the wave that drowns the foe.
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
paschal victim, paschal bread;
with sincerity and love
eat we manna from above.

Mighty victim from above,
conquering by the power of love;
thou hast triumphed in the fight,
thou hast brought us life and light.
Now no more can death appal,
now no more the grave enhral:
thou hast opened paradise,
and in thee thy saints shall rise.

Easter triumph, Easter joy,
nothing now can this destroy;
from sin's power do thou set free
souls new-born, O Lord, in thee.
Hymns of glory and of praise,
risen Lord, to thee we raise;
holy Father, praise to thee,
with the Spirit, ever be.

'Ad regias Agni dapes' trans. Robert Campbell (1814-1868)
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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.**

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

Father, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life. Strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for each other; through 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.

In the name of Christ.

Amen.



St Cuthbert's Notes

11 April 2021

Services in Church:

***PLEASE NOTE – As numbers at each service are limited, booking is required to attend. Bookings can be made Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10am – 1pm by contacting stcuthbertscomms@gmail.com or telephone: 07305 911986. You will receive an email or telephone call a few days prior to the service to confirm your place. If you are not booked in, you will be unable to attend.**
Thank you.

YouTube:

Join the full service each week online, (recording of the Wednesday service) including readings, intercessions, and the hymns played by Philip using this link to our YouTube Channel:

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

Secret Knitters!

I have just parcelled up and sent off a consignment of 14 fetching bunnets to the Mission to Seafarers and 2 lovely warm blankets to Knit for Peace. I know that both charities will be delighted. The Secret Knitters have obviously been very busy during Lockdown! Thank you all for your hard work.

Margaret

Weekly Prayer:

Dear God, thank You for the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus. We want to celebrate Him every day of our lives. In a world that grows increasingly dark, help us hold up His light. Give us the courage to speak as boldly as Mary Magdalene did, and never be ashamed of proclaiming Your Good News. In Jesus' Name, Amen.