

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

**Third Sunday of Easter
Wednesday 14 & Sunday 18 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 32 – Alleluia, alleluia,
 hearts to heaven and voices raise

Alleluia, alleluia,
hearts to heaven and voices raise;
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise:
he who on the cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,
now is risen from the dead.

Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits
of the holy harvest field,
which will all its full abundance
at his second coming yield;
then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine,
from the furrows of the grave.

Christ is risen, we are risen;
shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain, and dew, and gleams of glory
from the brightness of thy face;
that we, with our hearts in heaven,
here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel-hands be gathered,
and be ever, Lord, with thee.

Alleluia, alleluia,
glory be to God on high;
alleluia to the Saviour,
who has gained the victory;
alleluia to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity;
alleluia, alleluia,
to the Triune Majesty.

Christopher Wordsworth (18-7-1885)

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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

O God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of the bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit

First Reading: Acts 3.12-19

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. 'And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets,

that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 John 3.1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

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 169 – Father, hear the prayer we offer

Father, hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease that prayer shall be,
but for strength that we may ever
live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be;
but the steep and rugged pathway
may we tread rejoicingly.

Not for ever by still waters
would we idly rest and stay;
but would smite the living fountains
from the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,
in our wand'rings be our guide;
through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.

Maria Willis (1824-1908)

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Please stand

Gospel: Luke 24.36b-48

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

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Please sit

SERMON

I think, in these post resurrection stories, the only way we can even begin to imagine what was going through the disciples' heads, is to try and put ourselves into the scene.

We find ourselves standing among the first followers of Jesus again today. It is only a few days after the crucifixion and just moments after they have learned that death had not had the last word after all. But regardless of what they had heard from others, to actually lay eyes on Jesus and to hear his voice, surely must have taken their collective breath away.

How would you have felt being invited to take a closer look at Jesus's hands and feet? Can you imagine the chaos, as they all scrambled to serve him that piece of fish? But how amazing it must have been to have all the pieces come together, as Jesus opened up their minds to understand the ways in which God had always worked – and was working among them, even then?

Remember so many times in the stories of Jesus's ministry, how often the disciples didn't understand. Finally, they do!

It's like a sequel to a book or a film. The first film may have confused us, or left us wondering, but the sequel explained everything and maybe even gave us clues to what is coming next. Jesus reminds them of things he said in the past but is also telling them what they must do for the future – 'that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem'.

Now being scared, as they were, they might have chosen to stay locked up in rooms and not proclaim anything. Put their travels and experiences with Jesus behind them and go back to fishing or tax collecting. Maybe that's how some of us are feeling after over a year of Covid and being at home. We may be nervous of returning to normal, coming into church, going shopping or even out for a walk. How safe is it?

But the disciples didn't stay locked in a room, they remained faithful to Jesus and their calling and travelled and proclaimed repentance and forgiveness of sins to all nations.

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was a wonderful example of faith, love and sincerity to his call. His call to be a husband and support to our Queen, Elizabeth and to our country was lived out fully. Always in the shadows, faithfully serving. I truly hope that whatever has gone on with the royal family in recent months is forgiven and forgotten to let them remember this amazing man with the love and respect he deserves.

Bereavement can turn families either way, can't it? If there have been family arguments, some lasting many, many years, where someone needs to say sorry, or receive the forgiveness of others, it is usually a death that brings them together or splits them further. It is so sad but so common. Sometimes, even if forgiveness is offered, a person may feel they don't deserve it, or need it, which then creates other disagreements.

Is it any wonder, that in a world too often held hostage to its brokenness by our unwillingness to repent and our even more stubborn resistance to give and receive forgiveness, Jesus says:

Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations... (Luke 24:46-47)

The disciples were witnesses to these things. And you and I? We are witnesses too. As we stand with the disciples so long ago and as we see the wonder of the life-giving power of forgiveness every single day.

So now what?

How do we live as the witnesses we are also called to be? Thinking about our own lives, deep down, is there anyone we should be apologising to, anything we should be really sorry for, or anything or anyone we need to ask for forgiveness?

Is there anyone we should be offering forgiveness to? This is a hard one if the other person doesn't think they've done anything wrong. So how do we share this God given gift of forgiveness in our families, in our circle of friends, in our congregations and communities?

In my role, especially when it comes to funerals, I come across a lot of people who are estranged from loved ones and sometimes have witnessed to generosity rooted in forgiveness. I wonder if you can think of any examples in your own lives where gifts were shared, simply because people were able to forgive.

What a wonderful world we would live in if everyone was able to forgive and be forgiven and to tell the stories of the difference such precious forgiveness made?

Imagine the difference it would make to the people of Myanmar or Syria, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Yemen, Iraq, even Northern Ireland – the list is sadly endless. Repentance and forgiveness is being proclaimed but I guess it also needs people to hear.

Are we able to hear, and does it change what our faith in Jesus calls us to be and do? For this is, in fact, all and everything that Jesus called the disciples to do. Why should it be any different for you and me?

Are we listening, are we accepting the love God has given us to be called children of God? Are we proclaiming repentance and forgiveness in our lives?

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

Creator God, we greet you this morning with joy in our hearts, a new song, a new hope. You know well what we fear and what we question, what we long for and from whom we turn away and you embrace our prayers before they are uttered.

We have waited ... waited through the cradle, the cross and now the rising; ... the story has been told ... loved into life ... loved into death ... loved into renewal ... unfathomable God ... brought into our consciousness, incarnate ... revealed through flesh and blood.

Jesus, the cornerstone of our being did not come to build barriers but to break them down to give us an opportunity to seek relationship with all our kindred. We pray for all who meet in honour and love of you liberate us in your will and vision for us and in our ministry to one another.

*Lord in your mercy ... **Hear our prayer.***

Compassionate God, ... we ask your blessing on all who day by day watch over with tenderness those who are ill ... who counsel the distressed. We remember those in our congregation who have recently died and pray that they were comforted and strengthened for their journey by your welcoming arms ... When we are weary, we ask that you carry us in our sorrow ... silently we remember anyone known or unknown to us who is suffering at this time...

*Lord in your mercy ... **Hear our prayer.***

God of life, ... at the heart of each one of us, guide us in our responsibilities to one another no matter how great or small teach us to share the fruits of the earth and to act as your faithful stewards in all our human endeavours as your son Jesus did ... and to build together a home here amongst us, in our hearts, a dwelling place for you ...

*Lord in your mercy ... **Hear our prayer.***

Compassionate God, ... watch over our families and all who are dear to us, help us to be open and trusting especially when relationships are strained or difficult; knowing that

you are there at the centre of our beings, to support and uphold us...

Unveil our minds, our hearts, and our souls to your transforming spirit as we greet you with renewed joy in our song and strengthened hope in our hearts...

Accept these, and all our prayers in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Margaret Temple

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 142 – Come, ye faithful, raise the anthem

Come, ye faithful, raise the anthem,
cleave the skies with shouts of praise;
sing to him who found the ransom,
Ancient of eternal days,
God of God, the Word incarnate,
whom the heaven of heaven obeys.

Ere he raised the lofty mountains,
formed the seas or built the sky,
love eternal, free and boundless,
moved the Lord of Life to die,
fore-ordained the Prince of princes
for the throne of Calvary.

Bring your harps, and bring your incense,
sweep the string and pour the lay;
let the earth proclaim his wonders,
King of that celestial day;
he the Lamb once slain is worthy,
who was dead and lives for ay.

Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One,
consubstantial, co-eternal,
while unending ages run.

*Job Hupton (1762-1849) and John Mason Neale (1818-1866) alt.
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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

Author of life divine, in the breaking of bread we know the risen Lord. Feed us always in these mysteries, that we may show your glory to all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our 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

18 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 received an email from Knit for Peace, thanking us for two lovely bright and cheerful blankets. However, they are unable to accept any more knitting for the time being. They have obviously been inundated.

I have also just parcelled up 88 beautiful, cosy hats a 'Secret Knitter' donated! I am sending them to N.H.A.P, (Needles, Hooks, Angels and Premies), a group of knitters and crocheters who donate articles to 130 hospitals throughout the UK - I think that they are going to a very good home!

It is good to know that there are some people who have used lockdown productively! Wish I could say the same!

Margaret

Weekly Prayer:

Dear Lord, help me to tell of Your wondrous power and mighty acts to those generations that come after me. May I not let the season pass by without pondering the real meaning of Easter.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

