



St Peter's Wolvercote & All Saints Wytham Easter Sunday 2020

Hymn: This joyful Eastertide

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORSYRgu6Z7g>)

This joyful Eastertide,
away with sin and sorrow!
My Love, the Crucified,
has sprung to life this morrow:

Refrain:

Had Christ, who once was slain,
nere burst His three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain;
but now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;
but now has Christ arisen!

My flesh in hope shall rest
and for a season slumber
till trump from east to west
shall wake the dead in number: [Refrain]

Death's flood has lost its chill
since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill
my passing soul deliver: [Refrain]

Exsultet

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
O Universe, dance around God's throne!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in glory, revealing the splendour of your creation,
radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King!
Christ has conquered! Now his life and glory fill you!
Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!
The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines upon you!
Let all God's people sing and shout for joy!



Hymn: Jesus Christ is risen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rMwPEmUMP7U>

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!

But the pain which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation hath procured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love, Alleluia!
Praise Him, all you heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!

As we are unable to gather in church to light the Paschal (Easter) Candle, we invite you to have a candle of your own to light as a sign of Christ's resurrection and light.

When the Easter Candle is lit, the following words are said:

**Christ yesterday and today,
the beginning and the end,
Alpha and Omega,
all time belongs to him,
and all ages;
to him be glory and power,
through every age and for ever. Amen.**

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

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ was raised gloriously from the dead, crushing the power of sin and destroying the sting of death. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the mighty power of God as Christ calls us out of darkness to share in his marvellous light. May we, and all Christ's people, shine as lights in the world to the glory of God the Father.

The Collect

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity.

Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia
I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (20 v 1-18)

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her,

'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Talk by Revd Charles Draper

There is an old story about a man who fell into a deep pit. It was very deep, and the sides were sheer, and he just couldn't climb out, however hard he tried. But after a while, some people came to help. The first one said: "I've got just what you need! A whole book of advice and instructions on how to climb out of pits! Read it carefully, and I'm sure you'll be able to climb out!" So the man read the whole book – and he tried hard – but still he couldn't climb out.

Then a second person came along and said: "My friend, you need to just accept where you are and be happy. Life in a pit is not so bad! Accept it! Be content!" And the man tried hard to be content – but he really wanted out of that pit.

And then a third person came and said: "Poor you – you're very miserable down there. Let me reach down and give you a handout." He reached his hand down – but the pit was too deep. "It's no good", he said, "you're too far down. I can't reach down that far."

Then the fourth person came. The fourth person didn't say anything at all but climbed right down into the very bottom of the Pit beside the man – and then, took the man by the hand, and together they climbed out.

Who is the person who gets right down into the pit beside the man? You've guessed it. Of course – it is Jesus, who comes to us where we are, comes alongside us in our sufferings, and in his resurrection lifts us out of darkness into light. But who is the man in the pit? And what is the pit itself? The man of course is you and me. And yet he is more than you and me – he represents the whole of humanity.

The pit itself has been described in many ways – sin, suffering, darkness, death. But right now, we are in a very dark pit called coronavirus. And the sides of the pit are steep and sheer – it's not an easy pit for us to climb out of. But it's not the only pit. There are worse pits than this – war, violence, injustice and oppression. And of course for us today, there is the even bigger pit of Climate Change.

How do we escape from the pit? This is what Easter Day is all about. Easter Day gives us the promise of Resurrection. It is an unexpected message. The truth only gradually dawns on the disciples – slow to believe in such unexpected and amazing news. Yes, Jesus did die on that Cross - he did indeed come down into the depths of the pit with us. But now he is alive. He is risen. He has conquered death. He is alive with us.

"Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

Easter brings us the promise of new life out of death. Like Spring flowers springing into life after the bleakness of winter. Traditionally eggs symbolise that new life – that's why we have Easter eggs. The shell of a hen's egg is a little like the walls of the tomb. But when an egg hatches, the shell is broken, and new life emerges.

Resurrection – not just for Jesus, but resurrection for us all – that is the promise of Easter. On Passion Sunday, we heard those amazing words: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." But the message of Easter is not only about the promise of Resurrection for each of us as individuals, amazing as that is – it is even bigger than that. Easter is about the resurrection of humanity – even the Resurrection of Creation. How can that be?

Well it is important to note that death and resurrection belong together. Death leads to resurrection. Just as in the Old Testament we hear of how Exile leads to Restoration, and it is the experience of "wilderness" that leads to renewal. In her Palm Sunday sermon Sarah talked of how as a church we are being "stripped down". We are unable to meet together for worship – and all the richness of our worship and liturgy has been stripped away. But the kernel of truth and faith within it all remains alive and as strong as ever. In a different way I think that our country and our world are being stripped down – stripped of our pride, our greed, and our excess, we are discovering deeper values of love, compassion and solidarity.

It is appropriate that for us, Holy Week and Easter come in the Springtime. For a gardener, springtime means hard work! Spring is the time for digging and weeding – pulling up the weeds and digging the ground to make space for the

new plants to grow. A freshly dug border looks bleak and empty – but now it is ready for seeds and seedlings to be planted, and for new shoots to grow.

The coronavirus has thrown our country and our world into a kind of wilderness. It feels bleak – perhaps rather like that border being dug in the springtime. Maybe the weeds of selfishness and greed, of pride and judgementalism are being dug out. And already it feels that new shoots of love and compassion are springing up.

The message of Easter is that whatever pit we find ourselves in, God will bring through it some kind of resurrection. Maybe this is a time to pray that out of this wilderness of the coronavirus there may come both a renewed church and a renewed society, that will be ready to overcome the challenge of Climate Change, and to build a more modest but fairer and more caring world.

Happy Easter to you all!

Renewal of our baptismal promises

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life within the family of his Church. Now that we have completed our observance of Lent, we renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil.

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil.

And now we make the profession of Christian faith into which we were baptised, and in which we live and grow.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, creator of heaven and earth?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed the world?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church. .

This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all those who have been baptized in your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. **Amen**

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said,

‘Peace be with you.’

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you

All and also with you.

The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Almighty God, good Father to us all,
your face is turned towards your world.

In love you gave us Jesus your Son
to rescue us from sin and death.

Your Word goes out to call us home to the city where angels sing your praise.

We join with them in heaven's song:

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.

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven.

To the darkness Jesus came as your light.

With signs of faith and words of hope

he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

The crowds came out to see your Son, yet at the end they turned on him.

On the night he was betrayed

he came to table with his friends to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;

he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:

This is my body, given for you all.

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;

he took the cup, gave it and said:

This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this in remembrance of me.

This is our story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup

we celebrate the cross

on which he died to set us free.

Defying death he rose again

and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

This is our story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

Send your Spirit on us now

that by these gifts we may feed on Christ with opened eyes and hearts on fire.

May we and all who share this food

offer ourselves to live for you

and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Blessing and honour and glory and power

be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All 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.

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

We invite you to join in at home with this prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Blessing

God the Father,

by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,

open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life. **Amen.**

God the Son,

who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,

give you joy as you share the Easter faith. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

With the risen life of Christ within you,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Intercessions

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

We give thanks and pray for the worldwide Church. We give thanks for its members as they celebrate Christ's resurrection united with, if separated from, each other.

We continue to pray for Christians and members of all religions who face hostility and persecution for their faith.

We pray for all who were preparing for Baptism on Easter Day, that it will not be too long before they can be baptised.

We give thanks for our own baptism, for the continuing presence of Christ to support, comfort and guide us.

We pray for all who normally work in our Cathedral, and for our Bishops as they continue to minister to us from their homes. **We give thanks and pray** for our own ministry team: for Charles and Sarah continuing to lead us from their own isolation, for Shei as she ministers in a very special way at this time, taking funerals and making any visits that are vital. **We pray** that she keeps safe.

We give thanks for our local community with its many help groups and individuals supporting those who feel isolated, lonely and who are unable to go out to get the things they need.

We pray for all international leaders, that those in areas of violence and conflict may look for peace. and for all leaders trying to cope with the consequences of Covid 19. **We continue to pray** for Our Prime Minister, Cabinet at this time of crisis. **We pray** that all people will honour the necessity to keep the guidelines of social distancing, so that the spread of the virus does not overwhelm our health services. **We give thanks and pray** for all health workers and carers at this extremely stressful time.

We give thanks for God's creation – and pray for all people involved in protecting the environment, and for wisdom and guidance to be good stewards of our beautiful earth and to look after the creatures in it.

We thank God for the healing we all receive from nature, so important at this time. We praise God for the spring bursting all around us.

We pray for all who are sick in body, mind or spirit. We pray for all suffering from Covid 19, for those who care for them and are worried about them. **We pray** for all who find isolation extremely difficult – because they are totally alone, or because of the pressures felt by having a number of people (often including children) forced together for many days.

Amongst the sick who have asked for our prayers; Margaret Williams, Jenny Gerrard, Trixie Collier, Ray Voss, Marion Boulton, Vicki Shepstone, Margaret Ewert, John Waugh, Gavin Knight, Gordon Murray, Ian Kennedy, Ray Voss, Andrew Hosier, James Bastin, Holly.

At this time of resurrection hope, we remember those who have died, giving thanks for the promise that they are held in God's loving arms, with Christ.

We commend to God all who have died recently, whether from the coronavirus or other causes. We remember Tim Bravington and Margaret Bryer and pray for their families and friends.

Amongst those who died about this time in earlier years we remember: Hilda Oakes, Avril Hudspith, Tom Bridges, Roy Wilkins, Joan Rimmer.

'Thine be the glory'

We end our time together with the glorious Easter hymn 'Thine be the glory'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXzmjNE-yLA>

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain:

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.

Refrain:

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

Refrain:

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday wishes to Georgia Pearson (right) who celebrates her third birthday on Easter Sunday - from Great Aunt Caroline and all of us at St Peter's!

We also send warmest birthday wishes to Shei, whose birthday is on Easter Monday, and to Pat Waugh.

NOTICES

Charles and Sarah are on leave this coming week, returning on [insert date]. Charles is still available to speak to you in an emergency on 01865 553992 or call the Church office on 01865 236094.

The **next e-newsletter** will be distributed on Wed 15 April. We will share poems, images and photographs submitted by our readers. If you have any stories you'd like us to publish, please send them to: info@stpeterswolvercote.org.

Stewardship: A number at people at St Peter's, wishing to contribute to the Stewardship campaign for the first time, were unable to submit their donor forms to the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) which had stopped receiving post due to the coronavirus pandemic. The PGS is now accepting post in the usual way so donor forms may be posted to: 76, Kingsholm Road, Gloucester, GL1 3BD. Be aware, this is not the address on the donor form. From 20 April, the PGS will be able to receive donations by phone: 0333 002 1260. Further details will be published soon. Peter Bridges

