



Parish of
St Peter Woking
St Peter's · St Mark's · All Souls'

**Sunday
4 April
2021**



Easter Day all-age service with Communion

PREPARATION

Welcome

Alleluia, Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Easter Candle is lit

We light this candle for the risen Lord who leads us into the fullness of God's Kingdom and gives us eternal life.



Hymn Christ the Lord is risen today

Christ the Lord is risen today;

hallelujah!

sons of men and angels say:
raise your joys and triumphs high;
sing, ye heavens; thou earth, reply:

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 hath burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids Him rise;
Christ hath opened paradise;

Lives again our

glorious King;

where, O death, is now thy sting?

Once He died our souls to save;

where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ hath led,
following our exalted Head;
made like Him, like Him we rise;
ours the cross, the grave, the skies:

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven,
praise to Thee by both be given:
Thee we greet, in triumph sing
Hail, our resurrected King:

Words by Charles Wesley
Music arranged by William Henry Monk

Easter Greetings from different nationalities

Confession

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection. In your mercy, forgive us.

All Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.

In your mercy, forgive us.

All Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone and doubted our home in heaven.

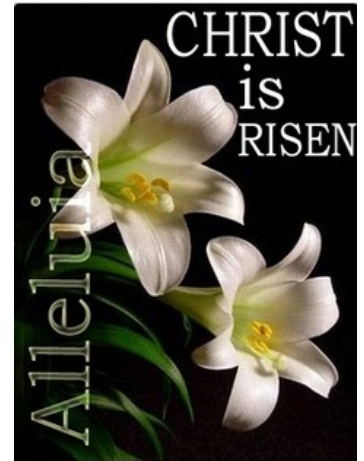
In your mercy, forgive us.

All Lord, hear us and help us.

Absolution

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins,

heal and strengthen you by his Spirit and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Collect for Easter Sunday

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

'Rising again' - Testimony by Martin Maguire, St Peter's

Hymn **In Christ alone**

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace?
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone – who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless Babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied,
for every sin on Him was laid.
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain,
then, bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave He rose again!
And as he stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am His and He is mine –
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man
can ever pluck me from His hand;
till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Words by Stuart Townend
Music by Keith Getty
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Bible readings

[Acts 10:34-40](#) – Mick Moore, St Mark's

³⁴ And Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I perceive that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation any



one who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the word which he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace by Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷ the word which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ And we are witnesses to all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and made him manifest;

(Revised Standard Version)

John 20: 1-18– Claire Lee, All Souls'

The empty tomb

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!'

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped round Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying?'

'They have taken my Lord away,' she said, 'and I don't know where they have put him.'¹⁴ At this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realise that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?'

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.'

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Mary.'

She turned towards him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!' (which means 'Teacher').

¹⁷ Jesus said, 'Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."'

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: 'I have seen the Lord!' And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Sermon *Rev Sam Waako - Resurrection witnesses*

John 20.1-18, Acts 10.34-43

I wonder who would you say is the greatest storyteller you have ever met? For me, it was my granddad, he was brilliant. The only opportunity I got to see him throughout the year was at Christmas, and I looked forward to it, listening to his amazing stories. I loved his stories for a number of reasons but most importantly they told something of who I am and gave me that sense of belonging and identity because I knew I was part of a bigger family, and not just my immediate family.



And although I don't do enough of it, I sometimes find myself telling some of these stories to my children informally, by recounting some of my experiences growing up. I remember sometime back my older son asking me why sometimes I eat food with my hands (not with fork and knife), and I told him 'how this is how we ate food growing up especially when we were at grandads.' After which he started asking to eat with his hands, but it didn't last long before he was back to knife and fork.

But even more importantly, I remember when we took the kids (Matthew who was a baby at the time and Luke 4) back to Uganda in 2015/16 for the first time, and we managed to visit my village, Luke just slotted into the village life like he had been living there all his life (apart from his struggles with using a toilet that was a hole in the ground). And I believe this happened because of the stories he had been hearing from us and now he was living that reality.

The gospel of Jesus is a story. But unlike my granddad's stories and now stories with my kids, it's not one that one can deep in and out, but rather it's the reality in which we live and find our sense of belonging, meaning, identity and purpose. The gospel of Jesus is the living story that makes sense of all other stories in our lives.

Last Sunday, Steve finished his sermon with the words, "it's only the beginning." On that very first Easter Sunday, when the disciples run to only find an empty tomb, what they discovered that day was that The Jesus story was far from over; in fact, it was just the beginning.' The gospel ultimately is the good news of the risen Jesus, and the empty tomb becomes an invitation to us to enter into a new life in Christ, where death is not the end, where sin does not get the last word, a world where like Mary glimpsed into the empty tomb, we glimpse a new world where resurrection is possible and where death is defeated.

Imagine how Mary must have felt when she first approached the tomb, she had gone to the tomb to take spices that had been prepared for Jesus body. Imagine her narrative, am sure we all agree it was that of sadness, pain and loss. Her and the disciples might at this point have thought that the story had come to an end.



And as we come to Easter this year, I have a feeling many of us have a similar narrative to that of Mary; This last year has been filled with a lot of pain and loss; loss of loved ones, loss of the things that were normal to us pre-pandemic, loss of relationships, loss of jobs, and maybe we feel, that's it! That's my story. I want to encourage you that, the story is not over. The story of the good news of the risen Jesus is a story of hope and joy, that we are all invited to be a part of.

Mark Russel, CEO of children's society says this of the story of the risen Jesus, *"It's the good news that God loves us, that God sent Jesus. It's good news that brings hope to the poor, freedom to the prisoner, recovery of the sight for the blind. It's the good news that releases the oppressed and proclaims the year of the Lord's favour. We have an amazing story to tell, a story of Jesus, a story of love, a story that transforms lives."*

What then is our response to all of this? Let's take a 'leaf' from Mary Magdalene's example on how she responded to this news. We are told in the gospels that she was filled with joy and she "went back to the disciples with the news, saying 'I have seen'.." (Jn 20.18) The good news of the resurrection is something we can not and must not keep to ourselves. We are called to pass it on to others. Offering another person, a chance to enter into the Easter story is the greatest privilege and gift we can ever give to anyone.

Being a 'Resurrection witness' is sadly something we do not do enough of, and yet, Paul in Romans declares, 'how beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news' (Rom 10.15), 'beautiful' because they are feet that bring a message of hope and freedom. Who wouldn't want this in these times we live in? We have all heard some of the reasons why we fail to witness to the risen Jesus, right from, 'we don't know how to do it,' to, 'it's for the 'experts/professionals (clergy or evangelists),' among other reasons given.

Hannah Steele, my former tutor and author of this year's lent book, writing about the Acts church writes this, *"witnessing was core to what being a disciple of Jesus was all about. Witnessing was not an optional extra, for the Christian disciple. It was not a term reserved for the super spiritual or for particularly enthusiastic follower of Jesus. To be a disciple is to be made a witness."* In fact, at least 23 times, the word witness appears in the book of Acts, to describe those who are followers of Jesus, and also used as a verb to describe 'the act of speaking about Jesus and the things He has done. This gives us a little insight on why the

Acts church grew at tremendous speed despite the persecution and the very small number of Christians at the time, among other things.

And although especially the Church today here in the UK does not face that kind of persecution, there are other 'antagonists' as Steve put it last week that are hindering it's growth and we need to get back to that spirit of witnessing if we are to see growth in the Kingdom

And since we have established that as disciples of the Risen Jesus we have been called to live and to witness to His story, here are three ways we can all be a part of the Resurrection story tellers.

Prayer

Prayer is perhaps the simplest and most powerful way we can be witness of be Risen Jesus. There is a popular story of DL Moody who we are told prayed for 100 of his friends to come to know Christ. During his lifetime, 96 of those gave their lives to Christ, and at his funeral, the final 4 gave their lives. We do not have to start with 100, it can be 1, or 2, or 10... let us just commit to pray for someone who hasn't encountered the risen Christ, and let us leave the rest to God.

Share your story

In our Acts reading, we encounter Peter sharing his story with Cornelius, prior to this encounter, God had revealed himself to Cornelius and as a result, Simon Peter had been sent for to witness to Cornelius. And although hesitant at the beginning, Peter finally managed (prayerfully) to make the journey and witness to Cornelius by sharing his story. In vs 44 of Acts 10, we are told, "while Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message." Our role is to share our story, it's the Holy Spirit to fill them with power to change and transform lives. You never know who is ready to hear your story. We are just ordinary people sharing an extraordinary story.

Invite

Another simple and effective way to witness is by invitation. To say to someone, 'come and see.' When Mary returned to the disciples, she said to them, 'I have seen,' pointing the disciples towards Jesus. I wonder who was 'I have seen person or people' for you?' For me it was a girl called Rebecca, who at a wedding simply came up to me and said, come and see... and she didn't just invite me to a youth group, she was inviting me to come and see who Jesus is, to be curious about Him...and when I finally encountered Him, a life was transformed. Witnessing can take place anywhere, at a bus stop, with a stranger, over a meal, over the garden fence with a neighbour, now online too! 'Witnessing is all about our everyday relationships, in action and in words.'

It's Pascal who famously said that, '*we must make good people wish that the Christian faith were true and then show that it is.*' Before taking my kids to Uganda for the first time, all

they knew were stories of the place, to them, it was like a dream, but when they finally got to live that dream, it was amazing, and if you ask especially Luke, one of his greatest experiences. I remember one morning him waking up and saying, 'I love Uganda.'

And as we witness to the resurrected Christ, we are making good people wish the Christian faith were true, and when they too get to encounter the empty tomb and ultimately the Risen Christ, am guaranteed they too will fall in love.

May this Easter bring you great joy.

Hymn **Because he lives**

God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus;
He came to love, heal, and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
an empty grave is there to prove my Saviour lives.

*Because He lives I can face tomorrow;
because He lives all fear is gone;
because I know He holds the future,
and life is worth the living just because He lives.*

How sweet to hold a new-born baby,
and feel the pride and joy he gives;
but greater still the calm assurance,
this child can face uncertain days because He lives.

Because He lives . . .

And then one day I'll cross the river;
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
and then as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.

Because He lives . . .

Words by Gloria Gaither
Words & Music by William J Gaither
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Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures; afterwards he appeared to his followers, and to all the apostles: this we have received, and this we believe. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession – *Nicola Cadet de Fontenay, St Peter's*

Jesus, light of the world, bring the light and peace
of your gospel to the nations ...

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life, give food to the hungry ...
and nourish us all with your word.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,
be with us and all who follow you in the way ...
Deepen our appreciation of your truth and fill us with your life.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,
recover the straggler, bind up the injured, strengthen the sick
We especially pray for your healing, comfort and mercy towards Peter and Eileen Bliss,
Patrick Chapman, John Hunter, Lynda Kirk, Trevor Lloyd, Catherine Mc Cormack, Olive
Park, Joy Storkey and Malcolm Pritchard, one of our Mission Partners.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,
we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you ...
Raise us with them to eternal life.
We pray for the friends and family of Enid Hardman that you will bring resurrection hope.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us, accept our prayers, and be with us always. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Easter Sunday is the most important Christian festival as we remember Jesus' resurrection power as a foretaste of our own ultimate rising in glory as his saved children and is always celebrated with communion. In an online service communion can only be celebrated by the priest receiving the consecrated bread and wine on behalf of the people who receive it spiritually by faith awaiting that time when we can all celebrate communion together.

Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you'. Then they were glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia!

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you
All and also with you. Alleluia!

Think of those you usually share the peace with. Remember them, pray for them, maybe call one of them and say 'Peace of the risen Christ be always with you.'

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you. Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works.



For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

**All Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, forever and ever. **All Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation, 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 forever. Amen.**

Agnus Dei

**All Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Receiving communion

The priest receives communion on behalf of the people.

Prayer after Communion

All God of our salvation, you have restored us to life, you have brought us back again into your love by the triumphant death and resurrection of Christ. Continue to heal us, as we go out to live and work in the power of your spirit, to your praise and glory. Amen

Notices – see N&N

Farewell from Steve Green – Placement Student

Hymn **Thine be the glory**

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.
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory 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.
Thine be the glory . . .

No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is nought 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.
Thine be the glory . . .

The Blessing

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; and the blessing of God

Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and all you love know and always.

All Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

All In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia!



Worshipping ▶ Loving ▶ Sharing ▶ Growing

