

ST PETER & ST PAUL'S CHURCH, AYLESFORD



A Service of the Word with Holy Communion

Open Minds

Easter 3

18th April 2021

Welcome and Gathering

Gathering prayer

Jesus says, 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.' In worship, let us come to the one who offers peace and rest.

Against the noise of the world

we cover our ears;

at distressing sights

we close our eyes;

to confusing thoughts

we close our minds;

amid the clamour of distress

we close our hearts.

Loving God, your ears and eyes are ever open to our needs;

help us to worship with open hearts and minds, that we may have open ears and eyes to see the work that you call us to do, and open hands to do it. Amen.

Hymn

Be thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me,
save that thou art;
be thou my best thought
in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping,
thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom,
be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me,
and I with thee, Lord;
be thou my great Father,
and I thy true son;
be thou in me dwelling,
and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate,
my sword for the fight;
be thou my whole armour,
be thou my true might;
be thou my soul's shelter,
be thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward,
great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not,
nor man's empty praise:
be thou mine inheritance
now and always;
be thou and thou only
the first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven,
my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven,
thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys
after victory is won;
great Heart of my own heart,
whatever befall,
still be thou my vision,
O Ruler of all.

Mary E Byrne and Eleanor H Hull

Prayer of confession

God, we confess that when distress comes knocking at our door, all that we have learned and should know goes flying out of the window. Our minds in disarray, we fail to turn to trusted sources of help.

Forgive us for forgetting how to seek you. We forget your sustaining Word in Scripture, your presence when we turn to you in prayer, the calm that is to be found when we seek you in community.

We are sorry for turning in on ourselves, our minds going round in circles. Come, risen Lord, break the cycle of our despair. Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

Our understanding is dark, clouded by dismay, fearful and lacking in faith, yet we know that you understand and you forgive.

Shine your light on us, banish the dark thoughts that overwhelm us; forgive us the deeds committed while fearful and bewildered, and lead us forward in the light of your love, and in joy as forgiven people. **Amen.**

A prayer of praise

Lord, you have always been our host. When you first came from heaven to the world we call ours,
shepherds and kings were your guests.

When you accepted hospitality in the homes of others,
you turned the tables and became the host, feeding hearts and souls through your teaching.

When you came to the disciples, newly risen,
you took charge and saw to their needs of mind and body.

We praise you, Jesus, ground of our being, ground of our believing, for standing among us in your risen power, host to the world that is yours – not ours. Amen.

The Collect

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Acts 3.12-19

When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

"Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 4

Hear me as I call, O God
You're all my righteousness
For You have rescued me
When I was drowning in the depths
Show favour again to me
And hear my prayer

How long, O sons of men, will you tear
me down with guilt and shame?
How long will you love what's worthless?
How long will your hearts chase after lies?

But know that God set me apart
And know that He has chosen me
And He will answer me
He will answer when I call

Pour out your complaints, but do not sin
Commune with Your heart upon your bed
and be still

Offer up your sacrifice and trust in Him
For there are many who say, "Who will
show us any good?
Lord, show us just how good You are
Unveil Your glory

For You have put gladness in my heart
Even more than the wealthiest of earth
And I will lay me down, I will lay me down
in peace

And I will sleep in Your peace
For You alone make me dwell in safety

I can rest because You are good
I can rest because You are faithful
I can rest because You are good to me

The Psalms Project

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 24.36-48

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence. He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Address

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Response:

For the world and its people,
Lord, we pray.

Ending:

For the world and its people,
Lord, we pray. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

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.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Song

When you pass through the waters
I will be with you
And the depths of the river
shall not overwhelm
When you walk through the fire
you will not be burned
I am the Lord. I am the Lord

And there is nothing to fear,
nothing to fear
There is nothing to fear,
nothing to fear
For I am with you always.

In the depths of your sorrow
I wept beside you

When you walked through the shadow
I drew you near
Yesterday, today, tomorrow -
always the same
I am the Lord, I am the Lord

And there is nothing to fear,
nothing to fear
There is nothing to fear,
nothing to fear
For I am with you always.

What can separate you
from my perfect love?
What can separate you
from my perfect love?
What can separate you
from my perfect love?

Do not fear. Do not fear. Do not fear.
Audrey Assad, Paul Zach, and Isaac Wardell

Offertory Prayer

Bountiful God, we come with our
offerings in response to your love. With
the new life in Christ, we give ourselves
in service to others. With the energy
bestowed by the Spirit, we seek to
inflame all your people with a zeal for
your way. Receive the work we do, and
the gifts we bring, that they may become
a blessing in your sight. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

... singing the hymn of your unending praise.
**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.**

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

... on earth as in heaven, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us so we pray:

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

I break this bread and take this cup so
that we all share in the life of Christ.
God's gifts for all God's people.

Invitation to Communion

Draw near with faith. Receive the body
of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for
you. Eat in remembrance that he died for
you, and feed on him in your hearts by
faith with thanksgiving.

Giving of Communion

Alleluia.
Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The body and blood of Christ.
Amen.

*Please wait to be guided by a sidesperson.
There will be no words said at the altar.*

Prayer after Communion

Living God, your Son made himself known
to his disciples in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith, that we may
see him in all his redeeming work; who is
alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Sending

News and Notices

Hymn

Christ is the one who calls,
the one who loved and came,
to whom by right it falls
to bear the highest Name:
and still today
our hearts are stirred
to hear his word
and walk his way.

Christ is the one who seeks,
to whom our souls are known.
The word of love he speaks
can wake a heart of stone;
for at that sound
the blind can see,
the slave is free,
the lost are found.

Christ is the one who died,
forsaken and betrayed;
who, mocked and crucified,
the price of pardon paid.
Our dying Lord,
what grief and loss,
what bitter cross,
our souls restored!

Christ is the one who rose
in glory from the grave,
to share his life with those
whom once he died to save.

He drew death's sting
and broke its chains,
who lives and reigns,
our risen King.

Christ is the one who sends,
his story to declare;
who calls his servants friends
and gives them news to share.
His truth proclaim
in all the earth,
his matchless worth
and saving Name.

Timothy Dudley Smith (b.1926)

A sending out prayer and blessing

May the Father fill you with deep faith.
May the Son fill you with deep hope.
May the Spirit fill you with deep love.
And may this blessing bring joy and peace
to you and to all who believe.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you
and with all those you love and miss,
this day and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord;
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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