

**Welcome to this Service livestreaming 10.00am Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

We hold in our thoughts and prayers Everyone throughout the world in these extremely challenging times. We may be reassured that God is with us and we are all in this together, doing our very best, as his worldwide family.

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God.

**All: May God fill us with truth and joy.**

**Lord, direct our thoughts,  
teach us to pray,  
lift up our hearts to worship you  
in Spirit and truth  
and hope  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

**Hymn: 'To God be the glory'**

**To God be the glory great things He hath done  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin  
And opened the life gates that all may go in**

***Praise the Lord praise the Lord***

***Let the earth hear His voice***

***Praise the Lord praise the Lord***

***Let the people rejoice***

***O come to the Father through Jesus the Son***

***And give Him the glory great things He hath done***

**O perfect redemption the purchase of blood**

**To every believer the promise of God**

**The vilest offender who truly believes  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives**

**Great things He hath taught us  
Great things He hath done  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son  
But purer and higher and greater will be  
Our wonder our rapture when Jesus we see**

Fanny Jane Crosby | Tommy Walker | William Howard Doane

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### **Preparation for Confession**

Let us return to the Lord our God and say to him:

**All: Father we have sinned against heaven and against you.  
We are not worthy to be called your children.  
We turn to you again.  
Have mercy on us,  
bring us back to your self  
as those who once were dead  
but now have life  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen**

### **Absolution**

May God who is both power and love  
forgive us and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,  
and raise us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Glory to God, glory to God,  
Glory to the Father.

*Echo: Glory to God, glory to God,  
Glory to the Father.*

To him be glory for ever.

*Echo: To him be glory for ever*

Alleluia! Amen.

Alleluia! Amen.

Alleluia! Amen

Glory to God, glory to God,  
Son of the Father,

*Echo: Glory to God, glory to God,  
Son of the Father*

To him be glory for ever.

*Echo: To him be glory for ever.*

Alleluia! Amen.

Alleluia! Amen.

Alleluia! Amen

Glory to God, glory to God,  
Glory Holy Spirit.

*Echo: Glory to God, glory to God,  
Glory Holy Spirit.*

To him be glory for ever.

*Echo: To him be glory for ever.*

Alleluia! Amen.

Alleluia! Amen.

Alleluia! Amen.

### **Collect**

Risen Christ,

for whom no door is locked,

No entrance barred:

open the doors of our hearts,

That we may seek the good of others

and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,

to the praise of God the Father.

Amen

## Readings

### The first New Testament reading is taken from Acts chapter 2: verses 14a, and 22 – 32

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. <sup>23</sup>This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, <sup>[a]</sup> put him to death by nailing him to the cross. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. <sup>25</sup>David said about him:

“I saw the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand,

I will not be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;

my body also will rest in hope,

<sup>27</sup>because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,  
you will not let your holy one see decay.

<sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the paths of life;

you will fill me with joy in your presence.’<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>29</sup>“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day.

<sup>30</sup>But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup>Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. <sup>32</sup>God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

**The second New Testament reading is taken from  
1 Peter 1: 3 – 9**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

**Songs:**

**O praise the Name of the Lord (Anastasis)**

**I cast my mind to Calvary**

**Where Jesus bled and died for me**

**I see His wounds His hands His feet**

**My Saviour on that cursed tree**

**His body bound and drenched in tears**

**They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb**

**The entrance sealed by heavy stone**

**Messiah still and all alone**

***O praise the Name of the Lord our God***

***O praise His Name forevermore***

***For endless days we will sing Your praise***

***Oh Lord oh Lord our God***

**Then on the third at break of dawn**

**The Son of heaven rose again**

**O trampled death where is your sting**

**The angels roar for Christ the King**

***O praise the Name of the Lord our God ...***

**He shall return in robes of white**

**The blazing sun shall pierce the night**

**And I will rise among the saints**

**My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face**

***O praise the Name of the Lord our God ...***

Benjamin Hastings | Dean Usher | Marty Sampson

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**I could sing of your love forever**

**Over the mountains and the sea**

**Your river runs with love for me**

**And I will open up my heart**

**And let the Healer set me free**

**I'm happy to be in the truth  
And I will daily lift my hands  
For I will always sing  
Of when Your love came down yeah**

*I could sing of Your love forever  
I could sing of Your love forever  
I could sing of Your love forever  
I could sing of Your love forever*

**Oh I feel like dancing  
It's foolishness I know  
But when the world has seen the light  
They will dance with joy like we're dancing now**

*I could sing of Your love forever*

Martin Smith

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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!

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
John 20: 19 - end**

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas (also known as Didymus<sup>[a]</sup>), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

<sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

<sup>30</sup> Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**



## Talk

King David was not abandoned to despair – he hung on to God’s promises and prophecies, as he led the people of Israel.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was not abandoned to death, but raised to eternal life, as we celebrated last Easter and continue to give praise and thanks.

The disciple Peter was not abandoned, through his disowning of Jesus, but rather empowered to take on the call Jesus had for him, to be the rock on which he’d build his church.

The disciples weren’t abandoned to their lockdown in the house where they were hiding in self isolation, because of their fear and doubt.

Guess what? Jesus Christ, the risen Lord appeared to them in that lockdown behind closed doors. Jesus’s first words were “Peace be with you”, immediately speaking into their fear of being found and handed over to the same fate Jesus experienced. Jesus’s appearance reassured them and gave them back their confidence, defeating the despair they were enduring.

Jesus’s invitation to Thomas then defeated the doubt that was dogging them. Jesus was truly alive! He was real! All that they had experienced was real and they were together once more.

When Peter proclaimed the hope that all those listening could have in Jesus, he was filled with power from the Holy Spirit. He was admitting: **“though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by**

**fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed”.** It would be worth it for the joy that would be theirs with the reward of being **saved**, to be with the risen Lord for ever.

How much this speaks to us in our lockdown and self isolation today. We do not deny the huge suffering of so, so many and we do not deny the doubts and the fears and the confusion. Yet, we have hope. A living hope now and for ever. Jesus said as recorded in the Gospel of John chapter 15 verse 13: “Greater love has no one than this, that one **lay down** his **life** for his **friends”**. You can’t help be moved, over and over again, by the heroism and laying down of life, not even for friends, but fellow beings. We can see Jesus Christ; we can see the absolute goodness of God’s DNA revealing itself through the lives of so many people on our TV screens and in our communities. Jesus is still stepping into our houses and our lockdown.

We live by faith not by sight. God has vested in us by his Holy Spirit all the raw materials of hope we need, to keep on keeping on, strengthened to face up to and come through the challenges of these times. Jesus Christ’s rising to life proved that. Stronger than anything, even death itself, is Love and the rainbow in people’s windows was God’s idea first. It’s His sign of his neverending presence, power and peace.

We are not abandoned to any kind of despair, not even to death.

We don’t stretch out our hand to touch Jesus’s side.

We reach out to put our hands into those of the living God, to go forwards together, with the eyes of faith and allowing His DNA of love to flourish in this life and on to the next. **Amen.**

## The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
who made all things?

**We believe and trust in him.**

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

**We believe and trust in him.**

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

**We 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. Amen**

## Song: This is Amazing Grace

**Who breaks the power of sin and darkness  
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger  
The King of Glory the King above all kings**

**Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder  
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder  
The King of Glory the King above all kings**

*This is amazing grace*

*This is unfailing love*

*That You would take my place*

*That You would bear my cross*

*You laid down Your life*

*That I would be set free*

*Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me*

**Who brings our chaos back into order**

**Who makes the orphan a son and daughter**

**The King of Glory the King of Glory**

**Who rules the nations with truth and justice**

**Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance**

**The King of Glory the King above all kings**

*This is amazing grace ...*

**Worthy is the Lamb who was slain**

**Worthy is the King who conquered the grave**

**Worthy is the Lamb who was slain**

**Worthy is the King who conquered the grave**

**Worthy is the Lamb who was slain**

**Worthy is the King who conquered the grave**

**Worthy is the Lamb who was slain**

**Worthy worthy worthy**

*This is amazing grace ...*

Jeremy Riddle | Josh Farro | Phil Wickham

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## Intercessions

We pray for God's faithfulness to be known in our world.

The response to 'Faithful God' is 'glorify your Name'.

Faithful God:

**Glorify your Name.**

Faithful God:

**glorify your name.**

In a world of change and hope,  
of fear and discovery;

Faithful God:

**Glorify your Name.**

In human rebellion and obedience,  
in our seeking and our finding;

Faithful God:

**Glorify your Name.**

In the common life of our society, throughout the world,  
in prosperity and need;

Faithful God:

**Glorify your Name.**

As your church proclaims your goodness  
in words and action;

Faithful God:

**Glorify your Name.**

Among our Family, Friends and Neighbours,

Faithful God:

**Glorify your Name.**

In our times of joy,  
in our days of sorrow;  
Faithful God:

**Glorify your Name.**

In our strengths and our triumphs,  
in our weakness and at our death;  
Faithful God:

**Glorify your Name.**

With your saints in glory  
and on the day of Christ's coming;  
Faithful God:

**Glorify your Name.**

Almighty God,  
By your Holy Spirit you have made us one  
with your saints in heaven and on earth:  
grant that in our earthly pilgrimage  
we may ever be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer,  
and know ourselves surrounded by their witness,  
to your power and mercy;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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!

**Alleluia!**

**Song: 'Knowing you, Jesus'**

**All I once held dear built my life upon  
All this world reveres and wars to own  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss  
Spent and worthless now compared to this**

*Knowing You Jesus knowing You*

*There is no greater thing*

*You're my all You're the best*

*You're my joy my righteousness*

*And I love You Lord love You Lord*

**Now my heart's desire is to know You more  
To be found in You and known as Yours  
To possess by faith what I could not earn  
All surpassing gift of righteousness**

**Oh to know the pow'r of Your risen life  
And to know You in Your sufferings  
To become like You in Your death my Lord  
So with You to live and never die**

Graham Kendrick

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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.**

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;  
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away  
you did not reject us,  
but came to meet us in your Son.

**All: You embraced us as your children  
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life  
that we might live in him and he in us.

**All: He opened his arms of love upon the cross  
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,  
at supper with his friends  
he took bread, and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**All: Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, and said:



Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**All: Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,  
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine  
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**All: As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world  
we offer you this sacrifice of praise  
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

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

### **We say together The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many,  
we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

The body of Christ given for us. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ shed for us. **Amen.**

God of truth,  
thank you for feeding us with the body  
and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Strengthen our faith,  
that we may grow in love for you  
and for each other;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **Notices**

### **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**

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

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**Blessing:**

May 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 the God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
be with you and all those you love, now and for ever.

**Amen.**