

St Michael's & Christ Church,
Brentor
12th April 2020

Easter Sunday

Led by the Reverend Tony Vigers



We warmly welcome everyone
joining our service

Introduction

Alleluia. Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:
he has given us new life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead.

Alleluia. Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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

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

Like Mary at the empty tomb,
we sometimes fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Like the disciples behind locked doors,
we are sometimes afraid to be seen as your followers.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Like Thomas in the upper room,
we are sometimes slow to believe.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

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

Collect

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.**

Readings

First reading- Acts 10:34-43

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Psalm 139:1-11, 23-24

¹ O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;

**you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

² You mark out my journeys and my resting place
and are acquainted with all my ways.

³ For there is not a word on my tongue,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

⁴ You encompass me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.

⁵ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
so high that I cannot attain it.

⁶ Where can I go then from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁷ If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

⁸ If I take the wings of the morning

and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

⁹ Even there your hand shall lead me,

your right hand hold me fast.

¹⁰ If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me

and the light around me turn to night,'

¹¹ Even darkness is no darkness with you;

the night is as clear as the day;

darkness and light to you are both alike.

²³ Search me out, O God, and know my heart;

try me and examine my thoughts.

²⁴ See if there is any way of wickedness in me

and lead me in the way everlasting.

Second reading- Revelation 1:9-20

⁹ I, John, your brother who share with you in Jesus the persecution and the kingdom and the patient endurance, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹ saying, 'Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.'

¹² Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest. ¹⁴ His head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining with full force.

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, 'Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive for ever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades. ¹⁹ Now write what you have seen, what is, and what is to take place after this. ²⁰ As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Gospel reading- John 20:1-18

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² 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. ¹³ 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.' ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ 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.' ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ 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."' ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Sermon

Creed

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

**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.** 1 Corinthians 15.3-7

Prayers of Intercession

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

Merciful Father: **accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace & Eucharistic Prayer

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

The peace of the Lord be always with you:

and also with you.

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.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you
because you raised him gloriously from the dead.

For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us,
and has taken away the sin of the world.

By his death he has destroyed death,
and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,

for ever praising you and *saying*:

**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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Jesus Christ is Lord:
**Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,

this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us
**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.**

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.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**
Reception of Bread & Wine

Post Communion

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.**

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through 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.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Please pray for all who are ill or anxious at home or in hospital, and

those who have asked for our prayers: Mick, Dorothy, Frankie and Sally, Chris Vigars, Nick & Julie, Dave & Wendy, Heather & John, Jimmy Hubbard, and Delilah and family.

Please pray for the souls of the recently departed, especially Sheila Weston and all those dying from the coronavirus around the world, their families and friends.

Your prayers this week are asked for:

- Mon** Please continue to pray for the NHS staff and key workers constantly placing themselves in the frontline.
- Tues** All the thousands of volunteers who have answered the call to help.
- Wed** All those struggling with isolation and not being able to go out and meet family and friends.
- Thurs** Those who are afraid in their own homes and give them guidance to find safety.
- Fri** Guide the Leaders of the World to make the right decisions for all of us.
- Sat** Thanks for the kindnesses being shown by strangers in this difficult time.

Next week

- Holy Communion with the Reverend Tony Vigars and Mrs Amanda Harris.

Happy Easter

Donations to support the upkeep of the building and the work of the church are welcome. If you would like to make a regular donation, please see either David or Helen about the parish giving scheme.