

BRENTOR CHURCH

17th May 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter Holy Communion

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.

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the living bread.

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 our redeemer,

you have delivered us from the power of darkness

and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:

grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,

so by his continual presence in us he may raise us

to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, **Amen.**

Readings:

Acts 17:16-34

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for (his companions) in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he argued in the

synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the market-place every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, 'What does this babblers want to say?' Others said, 'He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.' (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) ¹⁹ So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, 'May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?' ²⁰ It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.' ²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring."

²⁹ Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

³² When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, 'We will hear you again about this.' ³³ At that point Paul left them. ³⁴ But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

Psalm 66:13-18

⁷ Bless our God, O you peoples; **make the voice of his praise to be heard,**

⁸ Who holds our souls in life **and suffers not our feet to slip.**

⁹ For you, O God, have proved us; **you have tried us as silver is tried.**

¹⁰ You brought us into the snare; **you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

¹¹ You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; **but you brought us out into a place of liberty.**

¹² I will come into your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows, **which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.**

¹⁴ Come and listen, all you who fear God, **and I will tell you what he has done for my soul.**

¹⁵ I called out to him with my mouth **and his praise was on my tongue.**

¹⁶ If I had nursed evil in my heart, **the Lord would not have heard me,**

¹⁷ But in truth God has heard me; **he has heeded the voice of my prayer.**

¹⁸ Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, **nor withheld his loving mercy from me.**

1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

John 14:15-21

¹⁵ 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸ 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

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:
his 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.

Father, you made the world and love your creation.

You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.
And so we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels 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.**

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life: Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

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, 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.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Reception of Bread & Wine

Post Communion

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city
where we shall see you face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son 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

May Christ, who out of death and despair
brings new hope and a new future,
fill you with his new life;
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, Sally and Jimmy Hubbard, and Mark and Kelly and family.

Please pray for the souls of the recently departed, their family and friends, especially this week for Jenny Sanders, her family and friends.

Your prayers this week are asked for:

Mon Thinking of all those returning to work, staying safe.
Tues Continuing prayers for the NHS workers and all key workers.
Wed Those who feel alone and frightened.
Thurs Thanks for the skills and patience of the heroes all around us.
Fri For people to show kindness and compassion for others.
Sat Christians around the world fighting persecution.

Next week- 9:45am Family Service with Mrs Sally and Mr Christopher Pancheri.