

The Camel-Allen Churches

Easter Sunday Worship at Home



Sunday 4 April 2021

At the start of our services today we light our Paschal candle, bringing in the light of the risen Christ - you might like to light your own Easter candle at home as we rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

Opening Acclamation

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.
He has raised Jesus from the dead.

Alleluia. Christ is risen!.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

**Faithful one, whose word is life:
come with saving power
to free our praise,
inspire our prayer
and shape our lives
for the kingdom of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Hymn:

Jesus Christ is risen today, *Alleluia.*
Our triumphant holy day, *Alleluia.*
who did once, upon the cross, *Alleluia.*
suffer to redeem our loss. *Alleluia.*

Hymns of praise then let us sing *Alleluia.*
unto Christ, our heavenly King, *Alleluia.*
who endured the cross and grave, *Alleluia.*
sinners to redeem and save. *Alleluia.*

But the pains that he endured *Alleluia.*
our salvation have procured; *Alleluia.*
now above the sky he's King, *Alleluia.*
where the angels ever sing. *Alleluia.*

Bible Reading - Acts 10.34-43 (*This passage is rich in meaning, look for all it tells us about Jesus...*)

³⁴ ... Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how 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. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not 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. ⁴²He 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. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

We make our confession and receive God's forgiveness...

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.
Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

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

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

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.

Gloria in Excelsis

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

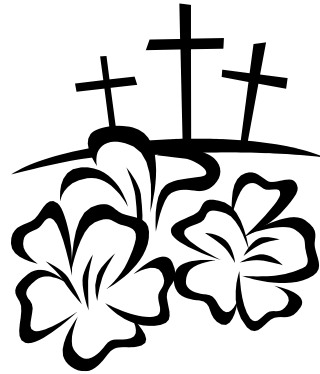
**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father, Amen**

The Collect for Easter Day

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.



Hymn

This joyful Eastertide,
away with care and sorrow!
My Love, the Crucified,
hath sprung to life this morrow.

*Had Christ, that once was slain,
ne'er burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain;
but now is Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen, arisen.*

My flesh in hope shall rest,
and for a season slumber,
till trump from east to west
shall wake the dead in number.

Death's flood hath lost its chill,
since Jesus crossed the river:
Lover of souls, from ill
my passing soul deliver.

Gospel Reading Mark 16.1-8

The Resurrection of Jesus

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.



Reflection

Open Shop

There is great rejoicing in St Teath today – the much loved, much relied upon, much needed village shop is re-opening with a flourish this morning. Good news!

Open Church

Two of our five churches are opening today after lockdown, on this most appropriate of Sunday's of celebration. Thanks to the hard work of scientists, medics, and health-care workers delivering our jabs, and to all in our communities respecting Covid restrictions we can begin to meet together again. Hopefully, despite the continuing restrictions, we can celebrate with joyful worship today whether you are able to join us in person or are joining us in spirit from home. Good news!

Open tomb

Whether in church or at home, what we are supremely celebrating today of course, is the open, empty tomb. When the women arrived in the cool half-light of early morning, they found, despite their worries, that the great stone sealing Christ's burial place had been rolled away. The young man (was it John Mark, our gospel writer as some commentators think?) tells them the startling news, 'He is not

here, he has been raised.' No wonder their first reaction was terror and amazement. But once they had time, together with the other disciples, to piece together the stories and various resurrection experiences, the testimony of the prophets of their history and the words of Jesus himself, they came to realise that far from being terrifying news, the open tomb was Good news – the best!

Good news, because the open tomb declares, as our first reading proclaimed, that '*God raised him on the third day*'; that God was at work in and through Christ by anointing him with his Holy Spirit, bringing peace and reconciliation', healing and freedom from oppression. It meant that Jesus was and is the one appointed by God as judge and Lord of all. That everyone, who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.' And this is good news, for all, to every nation!

Open Heart

And yet here 2000+ years on this has too often become just a traditional story, like Cinderella or Jack and the beanstalk, the shocking power of the resurrection has been buried again under Easter bunnies and chocolate eggs. We need open hearts to see and believe, open hearts to receive that peace and reconciliation with God that brings forgiveness of sins and open hearts to enthrone the risen Lord of all at the centre of our lives: to celebrate and share the Good news of the open tomb, open heartedly, with all.

God has given us new life and hope.
He has raised Jesus from the dead.

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Affirmation of faith

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.**

cf 1 Corinthians 15.3-7



Hymn

The strife is o'er, the battle done;
now is the Victor's triumph won;
O let the song of praise be sung:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Death's mightiest powers have done their worst,
and Jesus hath his foes;
Let shouts of praise and joy outburst.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

On the third morn he rose again
glorious in majesty to reign;
O let us swell the joyful strain:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee,
from death's dread sting thy servants free,
that we may live and sing to thee.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Prayers of intercession (adapted from prayers by Susan Sayers)

As we celebrate the new life of Resurrection,
let us pray to the one true God, who brings us all to life

Lord God, we pray that we your Church
may proclaim with joy your message of love and hope for the world;
may our lives as well as our worship,
testify to the truth of the Resurrection;
broaden our vision of what is possible
through new life in you.
We pray for the members of our churches today...

Life-giving God: transform our lives.

Lord God, we pray for the world we inhabit in this time of crisis;
for those who lead, and take important decisions
for those who serve in healthcare
and so many essential services
thanking you for the dedication and self-sacrifice we see.
We pray especially for nations without adequate healthcare
and we pray that our own response might honour you

Life-giving God: transform our lives.

Lord God, we pray for all who are sick or in danger,
especially those known to us...
for those who are struggling with isolation and loneliness
and for all who are anxious and troubled.

Bring healing and the resources to cope with suffering and give us the grace to carry one-another's burdens in love.

Life-giving God: transform our lives.

Lord God, who knows us, we pray for ourselves...
We thank you for the precious gift of new life
may we never take it for granted,
but live each moment in the fullness of life
that Jesus has gained for us.

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



The Lord's Prayer

We pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven...

Hymn

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 vict'ry, 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.

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught 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.

Closing Affirmations and Blessing

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.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own

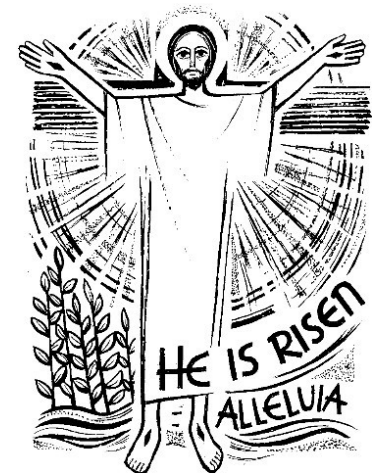
He has brought us out of darkness.

He has made us a light to the world.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

**May the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Be among us and remain with us always. Amen**



Material drawn from *New Patterns of Worship*, Church House Publishing © The Archbishops' Council 2002 & 2008 Songs reproduced under licence CCLI 999402. Written and compiled by the Revd Angela Cooper, reflection from an idea by Claire Salzmann (open shop, open church, open tomb) with thanks.