

Easter Praise

**The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed.
Alleluia!**

Christ yesterday and today,
the beginning and the end,
Alpha and Omega,
all time belongs to him, and all ages;
**to him be glory and power,
through every age and for ever. Amen.**

Hymn

Jesus Christ is ris'n 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,
Unto Christ, our heav'nly King,
Who endured the cross and grave,
Sinners to redeem and save.

Renewal of Baptism Vows

As we proclaim the victory of Jesus over death, darkness and sin, we are invited to renew our baptism vows.

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

Bible Reading:

Matt. 28. 1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Quiet Reflection or Time of Sharing

(or read page 1)

Prayers

We pray for all aspects of the current crisis – for those who are suffering and grieving, for health care staff, scientists and leaders, for those working in critical jobs, for those who are anxious.

Unshakeable God, you are our ever-present help in times of trouble. Amidst all the isolation, grief and fear caused by this crisis, renew in us your peace, restore to us your perspective, and reveal to us your presence and love.

The Collect for Easter Sunday:

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.

We pray for our world in the grip of this pandemic.

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who feel safe remember those who are truly vulnerable and afraid.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who have to choose between preserving their health and making ends meet.

May we who have had to cancel our trips remember those who have no place to go.

May we who settle for quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

May we who have a degree of security remember those who face distress and hardship because of loss of employment.

As fear grips our country let us choose love. During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other may we find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours. Amen.

We pray the Lord's Prayer.

Hymn

Thine be the glory,
Risen, conqu'ring Son,
Endless is the vict'ry
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, conqu'ring 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 hast 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 conqu'rors
Through they deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan
To thy home above.

Final Prayer

All our problems

we send to the cross of Christ.

All our difficulties

we send to the cross of Christ.

All our hopes

we set on the risen Christ. 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 us perfect in every good work to do his will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

A SHORT SERVICE ON YOUR TELEPHONE!

Dial **01895 714013** to listen to a weekly sermon and prayers. Do give it a try!

SPRING HARVEST AT HOME

Spring Harvest is one of the biggest Christian gatherings in the UK and this year it is online and free. Starting tomorrow, Easter Monday. Find out more at springharvest.org

ONLINE BIBLE READING GROUPS

After Easter we will be starting several weekly online Bible reading groups. We will be reading the gospel for the following Sunday together. Interested? Please let our church office know.



email: office@denhamparish.church

phone: 01895 832771

Denham Parish Church: We are online and on call!

Sunday Worship: Join us for our online Sunday service each week at 10.30am on Youtube, followed by 'Virtual Coffee' at 11.15am. Use this address in your internet browser:
tinyurl.com/youtube-denham

Stay connected: Please find the latest updates at www.denhamparish.church/blog or on our Facebook page (search for "Denham Parish Church").

Get in touch: Please call our church office on 01895 832771 and leave your contact details if we can help with deliveries (food, medicine, etc.) or if you would like to speak to one of our ministers.

In your prayers this week, please remember anyone known to us who is suffering the pain of bereavement at this time – especially the families of **Sue Fletcher, Mary Silvester, Joyce Brodie (Heather O'Regan's mother) and Norman Francis** (Norman and Jo were members of St Mary's for many years).



PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet

12th April 2020

Easter Sunday

Welcome to this new-style Parousia! All Church of England buildings remain closed. But the life of our church is not being put on hold and God remains active in his world! This news and service sheet is one way of keeping in touch and worshipping together. You can download it from our website or ask for a paper version to be sent to you. The inside pages provide you with a simple service so you can worship at home. Please check our website or Facebook page on a regular basis and do contact our church office if we can help in any way. *Christoph Lindner*

"I just want to get on with my life."

We often hear this heart-felt cry after someone experiences hardship, a sudden change or a tragedy. We crave a sense of normality! But, of course, at the moment, that is an unachievable dream.

Easter is the weekend that changed the world forever. I sometimes wonder whether the switch from BC to AD should have been counted from Easter Sunday because it is the greatest day in history, when Jesus defeated the most formidable enemy - death itself.

A very good friend of ours died ten days ago. While we are deeply sad, we also rejoice with her, because she can now see the Lord Jesus, in whom she trusted, face-to-face.

In her speech last Sunday the Queen quoted Very Lynn's famous song "We'll meet again" and how we look forward to resuming services at St Mary's! But of course there will be a much more profound reunion when Jesus returns to establish his everlasting kingdom. What a celebration that will be.

Nothing was the same after that first Easter morning. The disciples weren't able to just get on with their lives, but commissioned to take the good news of Jesus to the ends of the earth. Will everything go back to normal after this crisis? I don't know, but I sincerely hope NOT. Because this time is also an opportunity to reflect on what truly counts, to reset our priorities, to deepen our prayer life and to be active witnesses to the hope that is within us. Don't forget - we are resident aliens, already citizens of Christ's future kingdom and ambassadors for him in a world desperate for meaning, hope, love and peace. Happy Easter!

Christoph Lindner

STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL