

Bride Valley Churches

Easter Sunday Service 4th April 2021

Greeting: 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.

Opening prayer: 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 (from 'Lyra Davidica' 1708)

Prayers of penitence:

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 for this world alone,

And doubted our home in heaven.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

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.

May the God of love and power

Forgive us and free us from our sins,

Heal and strengthen us by God's Spirit,

And raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes

As faithless and not believing,

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

The Collect:

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. **Amen.**

Reading: Acts 10.34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 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. 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; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 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. 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. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Gospel Reading: John 20 verses 1-18

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. 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.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; 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. 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.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 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.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). 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." ' 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.

Reflection by Bishop Andrew

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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray: We pray for our Bishops; our leaders; and all the ministry team here across the Bride Valley.

Risen Lord Jesus, you were an early riser that first Easter morning; you needed no alarm to raise you from your three-day slumber. The engines of creation went into reverse and you rose, scattering to the winds the remnants of death. Raise us, we pray, from the slumbers of our too-easy faith and put us to work in the garden of your new creation.

You are risen. We are risen. Alleluia!

Risen Lord Jesus, you caught the world by surprise when you broke the steel cords of death. Help us to believe that all things are possible, that nations can make peace, that men and women can love their enemies, that justice can prevail and the meek can inherit the earth. Make us part of the revolution that your resurrection began, especially in those nations where there is war, injustice and persecution, and for refugees seeking a place of refuge.

You are risen. We are risen. Alleluia!

Risen Lord Jesus, you have given us thousands of mornings, but none like this. Give us eyes to see the outline of the new world that your disciples began to see that day. Help us to see all of life in the light that streams from the empty tomb. Help us to hear the captives' song of freedom and to taste the song of sweetness of release as eyes are opened and lives are made whole. We pray for any we know who are trapped in difficult situations and long for a way out of the tomb in which they feel imprisoned ...

You are risen. We are risen. Alleluia!

Risen Lord Jesus, you met your special friends at precisely their point of need – Mary Magdalene, Thomas, the two walking to Emmaus, Peter at the lakeside. And to each you brought hope and the promise of life in abundance. Meet us, your Church, in the same way, with hope and abundant life, so that we can bask in the light of your resurrection and reflect that light into a muddled world.

You are risen. We are risen. Alleluia!

Risen Lord Jesus, may this Easter story echo afresh around the world and bring millions to wonder, and to weep with joy, at the entrance of the empty tomb.

You are risen. We are risen. Alleluia!

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 God 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.

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 light to the world.

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

The Peace:

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.'
Then they were glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you: **and also with you.**

Final Hymn: Thine be the Glory

(Edmond Louis Budry 1854-1932 trans. Richard Birch Hoyle 1875-19390)