



*St* NICOLAS' CHURCH  
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

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**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**HOLY COMMUNION**



**Officiant: The Revd Paul Smith**  
**11 April 2021**

**Image:**

Mark A Hewitt.

Visual artist, living in Panorama South Australia.

A Minister in the Uniting Church in Australia.

Read more: <http://oldtractortinshed.net/>

**Opening Music:****When peace, like a river**

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to know,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

*It is well with my soul,*

*It is well, it is well with my soul.*

My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!—  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to his cross, and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

*It is well with my soul,*

*It is well, it is well with my soul.*

And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,  
Even so, it is well with my soul.

*It is well with my soul,*

*It is well, it is well with my soul.*

**Horatio G. Spafford, 1873**  
*Chelmsford Citadel Songsters*

## Welcome & Notices

*The president greets the people having given any notices:*

*Please stand:*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**All He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

## Prayers of Penitence

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.  
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil  
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Like Mary at the empty tomb,  
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Like the disciple behind locked doors,  
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Like Thomas in the upper room,  
we are slow to believe.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy**

## The Promise of Forgiveness

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
+ pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in  
all goodness, and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*We say together*

**The Gloria**

**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 the Day:**

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

*Please sit for:*

**New Testament Reading**

**Acts 4: 32 - 35**

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

We listen to:

**Now the Green blade riseth**

Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
*Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

In the grave they laid him, Love whom men had slain,  
Thinking that he never would awake again,  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:  
*Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,  
He that for the three days in the grave had lain;  
Back from the dead my risen Lord is seen:  
*Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
Yet your touch can call us back to life again,  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:  
*Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

*J M C Crum (1872 – 1958)  
The Church of England,*

*working with St Martin-in-the-Fields and the Royal School of Church Music*

*Please stand for:*

**Gospel**

**John 20: 19 - end**

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;  
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

**Alleluia**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

## Sermon

*Please stand to say*

**Apostle's Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Please sit or kneel for:*

**Intercessions**

*This response may be used:*

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

*Please stand for:*

**The Peace**

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

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*We show a sign of peace to our neighbour, without physical sharing*

*Please sit as we listen to*

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
hearts to heaven and voices raise:  
sing to God a hymn of gladness,  
sing to God a hymn of praise;  
he who on the cross a victim  
for the world's salvation bled  
Jesus Christ, the king of glory,  
now is risen from the dead.

Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits  
of the holy harvest field,  
which will all its full abundance  
at his second coming yield:  
then the golden ears of harvest  
will their heads before him wave,  
ripened by his glorious sunshine  
from the furrows of the grave.

Christ is risen, we are risen!  
Shed upon us heavenly grace,  
rain and dew and gleams of glory  
from the brightness of thy face;  
that we, with our hearts in heaven,  
here on earth may fruitful be,  
and by angel hands be gathered,  
and be ever, Lord, with thee.

Alleluia, alleluia!  
glory be to God on high:  
alleluia to the Saviour  
who has gained the victory;  
alleluia to the Spirit,  
fount of love and sanctity:  
alleluia, alleluia  
to the Triune Majesty!

*Christopher Wordsworth (1807 – 1885)*

*The Church of England,*

*working with St Martin-in-the-Fields and the Royal School of Church Music*

## The Preparation of the Altar

Creator of all,  
you wash away our sins,  
you give us new birth by the Spirit,  
and redeem us in the blood of Christ.  
As we celebrate the resurrection,  
renew your gift of life within us.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord.  
**Amen.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

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, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
almighty and eternal Father,  
and in these days of Easter  
to celebrate with joyful hearts  
the memory of your wonderful works.  
For by the mystery of his passion  
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,  
has conquered the powers of death and hell  
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.  
He has placed them once more in paradise  
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.  
And so, in the joy of this Passover,  
earth and heaven resound with gladness,  
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation  
sing for ever the hymn of your glory.

**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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;

grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of St Nicolas, St Helen, St Michael and all the  
saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

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**

## Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

The Body and Blood of Christ.

**Amen**

*Please come forward and keep as much social distance as possible;  
the president distributes the host in silence*

*We listen to*

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,  
Your sweetest notes employ,  
The Pascal victory to hymn  
In strains of holy joy.

For Judah's Lion bursts his chains,  
Crushing the serpent's head;  
And cries aloud through death's domains  
To wake the imprisoned dead.

**Ye choirs of new Jerusalem**

Devouring depths of hell their prey  
At his command restore;  
His ransomed hosts pursue their way  
Where Jesus goes before.

Triumphant in his glory now  
To him all power is given;  
To him in one communion bow  
All saints in earth and heaven.

While we his soldiers praise our King,  
His mercy we implore,  
Within his palace bright to bring  
And keep us evermore.

All glory to the Father be,  
All glory to the Son,  
All glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,  
While endless ages run.  
Alleluia, Amen.

*Words by St. Fulbert of Chartres, c.960 – 1028  
Charles Villiers Stanford, The Choir of New College Oxford*

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

**Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory.  
Amen**

### **Blessing and Dismissal**

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.**

Go in the peace of Christ, Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God, Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Closing music:*

*Christ The Lord Is Risen Today - Northland Church*

**Please maintain social distancing as you leave  
and take this Service Booklet with you, Thank you**

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