

The Priory Church Christchurch



Eucharist in Easter

*Fifth Sunday of Easter
2nd May 2021
10.00am*

Welcome to this Eucharist on the 5th Sunday of Easter. If you are a visitor or newcomer, please make yourself known to one of the clergy.

As you come into the Priory, or after this service, there will be an opportunity to give to the ministry of the parish. We depend on the generosity of everyone who comes to the Priory to help us preserve the building for future generations as a place of welcome, worship and mission.

If you would like to give by cash, and are a taxpayer, please use one of our yellow Gift Aid envelopes and be sure to fill in your name and address and sign the declaration. Gift Aid adds a 25% bonus to your gift, by allowing us to claim a refund of tax on the money donated; e.g. for a gift of £10 we would receive another £2.50 at no cost to you.

For those who do not carry cash, there will be contactless machines near the exit which enable you to give by using your bank card. The current default setting is for a gift of £5. Alternatively, the QR Code is given below.

However you choose to give, your donation will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support.



At this stage of the Government's 4-step planned relaxation of lockdown, all the requirements of social distancing and hand cleansing are still in place.

The Church of England requires us to be two metres apart.

Another of the current legislation on this service is that the congregation is unable to sing the hymns which are, in normal times, one of the core elements of our worship. In our stead, they will be sung by some members of the choir.

Whatever you and your loved ones may have faced in the past year, may you and those you love know God's blessings of love, joy, peace and hope this Easter.

Charles Stewart, Vicar

*Please ensure that all mobile 'phones are switched off.
Photography, sound and video recordings are not permitted
at Priory services.*

*Thank you for your co-operation.
This Eucharist is being live-streamed.*

- *Please maintain social distancing at all times, including entering and leaving the church.*
- *Please observe the one-way system at all times.*
- *Face coverings are required to be worn in places of worship, except for those with a recognized exemption.*
- *When it comes to the Communion, please stay in your place: the clergy will come to you.*

Thank you for helping us keep one another safe.

Voluntary: 'Petite Pièce', by Joseph Jongen(1873-1953)

The Gathering

PROCESSIONAL HYMN, *sung by members of the Choir*

Ye that know the Lord is gracious,
Ye for whom a Corner-stone
Stands, of God elect and precious,
Laid that ye may build thereon,
See that on that sure foundation
Ye a living temple raise,
Towers that may tell forth salvation,
Walls that may re-echo praise.

Living stones, by God appointed
Each to his allotted place,
Kings and priests, by God anointed,
Shall ye not declare his grace?
Ye, a royal generation,
Tell the tidings of your birth,
Tidings of a new creation
To an old and weary earth.

Tell the praise of him who called you
Out of darkness into light,
Broke the fetters that enthralled you,
Gave you freedom, peace and sight:
Tell the tale of sins forgiven,
Strength renewed and hope restored,
Till the earth, in tune with heaven,
Praise and magnify the Lord.

Words: C A Alington (1872-1955)

Tune: Hyfydol,
Melody by Huw Pritchard (1811-87)

Please remain standing

THE GREETING

President ✠ In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

Canon Charles Stewart, presiding, welcomes the congregation and introduces the service.

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 by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us.

All **Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us.

All **Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us.

All **Lord, hear us and help us.**

President 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.

All say 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.**

Please remain standing

THE COLLECT

President Let us pray in the joy of this Easter celebration
that the resurrection life of Jesus our Lord
may transfigure our lives.

Almighty God,
who through your only begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate
of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Please sit

The Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING

Acts 8. 26-end

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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.

All **Alleluia.**

GOSPEL READING

John 15. 1-8

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

The Revd Tom Stuckey

Please stand to say

THE CREED

All **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father,
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Please sit

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

At the end of the prayers, the Intercessor says:

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

Please stand

THE PEACE

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

All Alleluia! The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you. Alleluia!

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

As we are able, all may exchange a sign of peace. Please then sit for the

OFFERTORY HYMN, *sung by members of the Choir*

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
First-begotten from the dead,
Thou alone, our strong defender,
Liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Jesu, true and living bread!

Here our humblest homage pay we,
Here in loving reverence bow;
Here for faith's discernment pray we,
Lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Thou art here, we ask not how.

Though the lowliest form doth veil thee
As of old in Bethlehem,
Here as there thine angels hail thee,
Branch and flower of Jesse's stem.
Alleluia, alleluia,
We in worship join with them.

Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished
Once for all when thou wast slain,
In its fullness undiminished
Shall for evermore remain.

Alleluia, alleluia,
Cleansing souls from every stain.

Life-imparting heavenly manna,
Stricken rock with streaming side,
Heaven and earth with loud hosanna
Worship thee, the Lamb who died.

Alleluia, alleluia,
Risen, ascended, glorified.

Words: George Bourne (1840-1925)

*Tune: St Helen
George Martin (1844-1916)*

President Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest;
make yourself known in the breaking of bread. **Amen.**

Please stand

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

President The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **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 way 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:

All **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.**

President 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.

Minister Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
All **Dying, you destroyed our death,
Rising, you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

President 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 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.**

Please sit or kneel. A short silence is kept

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Minister Rejoicing in God's new creation,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All **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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

All 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.**

THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

All **Let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Communicant members of all Christian Churches are welcome to receive Communion at this service.

Please remain in your seats to receive Communion – the clergy will come to you.

During the Administration of Communion, members of the choir sing “Make me a light”, music by Philip Wilby (b.1949)

After Communion, please remain seated.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

President Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

[Weather permitting, the final hymn will be sung on the monastic lawns; if the weather is poor the hymn follows here.]

Please remain seated

POST-COMMUNION HYMN, *sung by members of the Choir*

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Music: Blaenwern,
William Rowlands (1860-1937)

Please stand

THE BLESSING

President Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

President 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.**

Minister With the risen life of Christ within you,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Voluntary: *‘Pièce pour Grande Orge’*, by Joseph Jongen(1873-1953)

- *Please leave via Cloister Way, as directed by the sidemen.*
- *Please do not congregate in the Priory House Car Park, as this causes a blockage. Instead, please meet your friends on the monastic lawns for a conversation after the service, always maintaining social distancing and the ‘rule of six’, as per Government guidelines.*
- *Please take this Order of Service with you: you are welcome to take it home, or to deposit it in one of the bins available at the Cloister Way exit.*
- *There will be a collection plate to receive any offerings not left on your way into the Priory.*
- *Please use the hand sanitizer as you leave.*

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops’ Council 2000. *Common Worship: Times and Seasons*, material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops’ Council 2006.

Hymns reproduced under CCL Licence Number 809640