

Church of St Chad

Hopwas

*Christ
is
Risen!*

Morning Prayer

4th April

Easterday



*Following Christ in the footsteps
of St Chad*

Welcome

HYMN Lead like a lamb

OPENING RESPONSES

This is the day:	When tears are wiped away,
This is the day	When broken hearts are mended,
This is the day:	When fears are replaced with joy.
God opens the tombs of our hearts	to fill us with life.
This is the day	Easter Day!
Christ is risen	He is risen indeed—Hallelujah!

LIGHTING THE EASTER CANDLE

We light this candle to remind us that the
love of God is like a light in our darkness.
Blessed be God for ever.

Let everyone who loves God rejoice in this light.
With joy we praise our Lord! Alleluia!

Let us gladly enter into the joy of our Lord!
**Our hearts are filled with thanksgiving!
Alleluia!**

Let those who have walked with Jesus
along the road to Calvary, come now to
celebrate his resurrection.
We walk from darkness into light! Alleluia!



EASTER PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us open our lives to God and
ask for his forgiveness and grace:

On those times when we have kept your resurrection
as a past event rather than a present encounter:

Lord, have mercy - **Lord, have mercy**

On those times when we have been
blind to your presence:

Christ, have mercy - **Christ, have mercy**

On those times when we have failed to
live as those who have risen with Christ

Lord, have mercy - **Lord, have mercy**

To all who turn to him, Christ says,
'Your sins are forgiven.'

He also says, 'Come, follow me **Amen**



COLLECT

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.
Amen



FIRST 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.'

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

HYMN

This joyful Eastertide

**Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to JOHN (20:1-18)**

Glory to you O Lord

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.'¹

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.

This is the gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ



SERMON

John's account today lies at the heart of the Gospel message. Jesus, who was crucified has been raised. This part of John's gospel reads like a play in three acts. It tells a story about people searching; about sadness and fear; about action, surprise, and joy.

The scene opens on a solitary figure walking in the darkness. Mary Magdalene has broken through her fear, in order to tend the body of her teacher and friend. Act two shows the actions of Peter and the unnamed disciple who is only ever identified only as the *one whom Jesus loved*.

Over the years there have been many suggestions as to whom the unnamed disciple might be or represent. Is the beloved disciple unnamed because this person represents us? Represents You and Me. And that all who follow Jesus are Beloved Disciples?

The reading from Acts is a story of promise, seen most powerfully in the resurrection of Jesus. Without question here God's spirit is moving. The only question is whether Peter, as well as the church, will sense the winds of change and follow God's lead.

On the day we celebrate the resurrection of Christ, it is right for the church to consider how the Spirit may be moving amongst us, in unexpected and challenging ways, especially as we slowly emerge from this dreadful pandemic and in the light of the Diocesan plans for change.

The third act in John's account sees Mary standing outside the tomb. But Mary doesn't find an empty tomb. Whilst the body of Jesus is not there, like the other gospel accounts, Mary finds there are two angels in the tomb, and Mary repeats her understanding of the situation, what she sees as the theft of Jesus' body. Mary's loss, the death of her friend and teacher, has now been made worse. She thinks someone has stolen the body of Jesus.

What is loss but the experience of love, after all? If we did not love, there would be no loss. What human being does not bear grief at some time in their lives? Too often war, hunger, injustice, poverty, disease and natural disaster win through.

What drove Abraham and Moses to plead for their people. What drove the prophets to pit their lives against their society and their culture? What drove Jesus to the cross? Love - all love. And love and mourning and grief and loss and faithfulness, drive us to the tomb. Not to expect a miracle but to witness to a grieving world. To simply be there, in the dark

Thomas Merton, a master of prayer describes what happens at this place of darkness. Love gives an experience, a taste of what we have not seen and, are not yet able to see. But in this world, you cannot cling to love. You cannot hold or hoard it. In a suffering world there is no time to linger in the sacred moment. Instead every love must transfigure into ever widening circles of compassion. This love must go out to the ends of the earth with the message of hope.

In Mary's case it is Jesus calling her by name that opens her eyes to him. We are told, time and time again, that we truly see only once we are seen. We truly know only because we are known. We truly love only because God first loved us. Mary illustrates this truth in her encounter with Jesus at the tomb.

In all of this we may ask, where is OUR hope? What reason is there to hope? The dominant theme of the Christian faith is that there is hope. And it's not a hope based on some vague optimism that in the end, everything will turn out all right. It is a hope which is based on faith and love. The faith that the God of Creation, cares about you, and cares about me.

Our hope is in the love that never fails. The love that pursues us long before we are even aware that we are loved or lovable. It's the love that comes looking for us when we are at the bottom of the ditch.

The love which weeps for us and with us as we struggle in brokenness and sin. It's the love that goes to the Cross in order to show us how great that love is, and how important we are.

How powerful is the hope which can conquer even death itself. The hope we have is found in an empty tomb. The hope we have is a Risen Saviour. The hope we have is in a God who calls us into God's life, into God's Kingdom and to God's side, without us even having to buy a ticket.

The hope we have is in a God who seeks out the lost and give hope to the hopeless. Resurrection is where our faith begins. And that is where we find hope and reason, great reason to live! **Amen**

HYMN

Jesus Christ is risen today

CREED

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

We Believe

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

In faith and hope we pray that our risen Lord Jesus may fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection.

Lord, in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

Lord we ask you to bless and guide *Elizabeth our Queen*; and pour your blessing on Prince Philip, and the whole of the serving Royal family. Give wisdom to all in authority and direct our nation in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honour one another, and seek the common good.

Lord, in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

We give thanks for the continuing success of the vaccine rollout in the UK and for all those who contribute to its success. Help us to continue to be vigilant and aware of how fragile this recovery may be. We pray for the European Community as it once again fights against another surge of this awful virus.

Lord, in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

We pray for the people of Myanmar as they struggle against an extremely violent dictatorship. We pray for the hundreds of families who have lost loved ones in this struggle.

As you Lord, rose for all people, we pray for an end to discrimination in all its forms, whatever they may be, that all people will feel included, respected, valued and genuinely feel able to express who they are in every walk of life.

Lord, in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

We pray for our Bishops, Michael and Clive, our Archdeacon Sue and our Rural Dean Gary and for the life of all of our churches. We pray for our Church Wardens Sue and Keith, for Roger our Verger and all who are involved and committed to the life and work of this church.

Lord, in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, give them courage and hope in their troubles; and bring them the joy of your salvation.

We pray for the vulnerable and suffering among us as we remember them by name.

**Beryl and Roger, Audrey, Jack, Melanie Lees
Lesley Fox, Jim, Barbara and Edwin Bott, Norma,
Catherine and Eric, Dave Atkinson,
Ann Thurgood, Michael Dalton, Finn Collyer,
and Sue Foster and for all their family and carers**

Lord, in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

We pray that the dying may know your comfort and peace and we remember those who have died recently including the family of Raymond Cross.

We pray for those whose anniversary of loss occurs at this time and for those whose loss is ever before them. Bless and guide them by your resurrection spirit and bring them the peace that only you can give.

Lord in your mercy - **Hear our Prayer**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love.

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



LORDS PRAYER

**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**

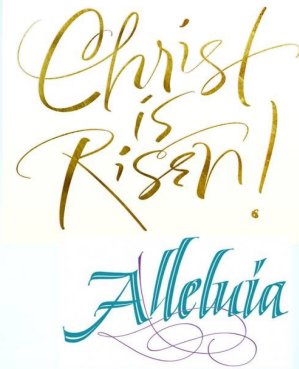


Glory to God
Jesus Christ is risen Alleluia!

Glory to God
What more can we say!

Glory to God
Your life is our story

Glory to God
Your love is our way



HYMN

est

Hosanna in the high-

THE GRACE *(Shared with each other)*

**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all this day and forever more.
Amen**

BLESSING

God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.
Amen.

God the Son,
who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.
Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,
whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.
Amen.

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 peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ
Amen



Happy Easter

Chad's Church Opening Times for APRIL

4 th	10.30am	Easter Day Communion We share Communion together sharing <u>only</u> the bread in the form of wafer
7 th	10am-4pm	Church open for Personal prayer (Wed)
11 th	10.30am	Easter 1
14 th	10am-4pm	Church open for Personal prayer (Wed)
18 th	10.30am	Easter 2
21 st	10am-4pm	Church open for Personal prayer (Wed)
25 th	10.30am	Easter 3
28 th	10am-4pm	Church open for Personal prayer (Wed)

NB: Please note that ALL Covid protocols remain in place, including the wearing of face coverings. Unfortunately Hymn singing is still not allowed

*On some evenings at 7.30pm
we have a virtual "Coffee Evening" on Zoom*

*If you are able, and would like to take part
Please contact:
Keith Dawson (01827) 289406*

