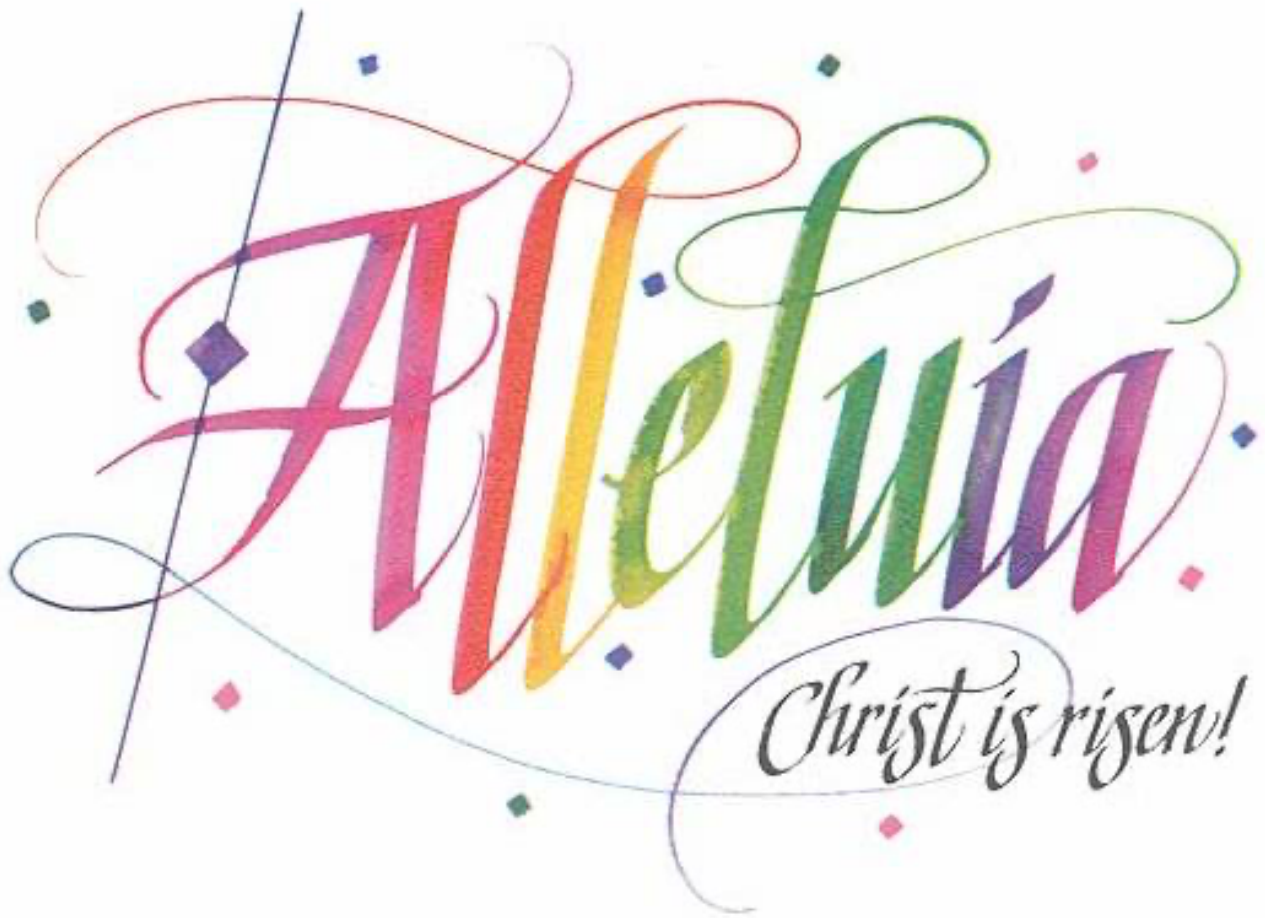


St Matthew's Church, Chichester Road, Croydon

**17<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**Easter Day Holy Communion**





*We welcome you to St Matthew's Church on this Easter morning and pray you are blessed as we worship the risen Lord together.*

*If you are with us for the first time please fill in one of our Welcome Cards. Thank you.*

*Please join in the words in **bold print**.*

*Don't forget to silence your mobile!*

*Our Celebrant is Revd Linda Fox.  
Our Preacher is Revd Simon Foster.*

## ¶ **Welcoming the Easter Candle**

*The ministers gather with the choir at the back of the church*

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.**

*A minister brings in the lit Easter Candle and proclaims*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia.**

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ was raised gloriously from the dead, crushing the power of sin and destroying the sting of death. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the mighty power of God as Christ calls us out of darkness to share in his marvellous light. May we, and all Christ's people, shine as lights in the world to the glory of God the Father.

The light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*This Easter hymn of praise is sung as the Easter Candle leads a procession to the Easter Garden.*

## ♪ **Hymn** ♪

Jesus Christ is risen 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,  
*Alleluia*,  
unto Christ, our heavenly King,  
*Alleluia*,  
who endured the cross and grave,  
*Alleluia*,  
sinners to redeem and save. *Alleluia*.

But the pains which He endured,  
*Alleluia*,  
our salvation have procured; *Alleluia*,  
now above the sky He's King, *Alleluia*,  
where the angels ever sing *Alleluia*.

v. 1: 'Surrexit hodie' (14th century) trans. anon. as in  
*Lyra Davidica*, (1708) vs. 2-3 from J. Arnold's  
*Compleat Psalmodist* (1749)

*At the Easter Garden, the minister holding  
the Candle sings*

The light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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.' *Matthew 28.5,6*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all  
creation, the Father of our Lord Jesus  
Christ. To you be glory now and for  
ever. In your great mercy you have given  
us a new birth into a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ  
from the dead.

By your blessing, may we who have  
prepared this garden in celebration of  
his victory be strengthened in faith,  
know the power of his presence,  
and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Risen Lord Jesus,  
as Mary Magdalene met you in the  
garden on the morning of your  
resurrection, so may we meet you today  
and every day:

Speak to us as you spoke to her;  
reveal yourself as the living Lord;  
renew our hope and kindle our joy;  
and send us to share the good news  
with others.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## **The Confession and Absolution**

### **Invitation to confession**

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.

*cf 1 Corinthians 5.7,8*

Jesus Christ, risen Master and  
triumphant Lord,  
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,  
and confess to you our weakness  
and unbelief.

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

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Like the disciples 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.**

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.**

*Please stand*

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

**All glory be to God on high!  
And peace to His people on the  
earth.**

**Lord God, almighty God and  
Father,  
we give you thanks for your  
glory.**

**Lamb of God, only Son of the  
Father,  
you sit at the right hand of God,  
you take away the sins of the  
world,  
have mercy on us, receive our  
prayer.**

**For you alone are the holy one,  
for you only are the Lord most  
high,  
Jesus Christ with the Holy  
Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

## **The Collect**

*A period of silent prayer*

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.**

*Please be seated*

## **¶ The Liturgy of the Word**

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word  
of God as it comes to us in the reading  
of Holy Scripture.

**Our hearts and minds are open.**

### **First Reading**

*Isaiah 65: 17-25*

<sup>17</sup>For I am about to create new heavens  
and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be  
remembered  
or come to mind.

<sup>18</sup>But be glad and rejoice for ever  
in what I am creating;  
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a  
joy,  
and its people as a delight.

<sup>19</sup>I will rejoice in Jerusalem,  
and delight in my people;  
no more shall the sound of weeping be  
heard in it,  
or the cry of distress.

<sup>20</sup>No more shall there be in it  
an infant that lives but a few days,  
or an old person who does not live  
out a lifetime;  
for one who dies at a hundred years  
will be considered a youth,  
and one who falls short of a hundred  
will be considered accursed.

<sup>21</sup>They shall build houses and inhabit  
them;  
they shall plant vineyards and eat  
their fruit.

<sup>22</sup>They shall not build and another  
inhabit;  
they shall not plant and another eat;  
for like the days of a tree shall the days  
of my people be,

and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

<sup>23</sup>They shall not labour in vain,  
or bear children for calamity;[e]  
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—

and their descendants as well.

<sup>24</sup>Before they call I will answer,  
while they are yet speaking I will hear.

<sup>25</sup>The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,  
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;  
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!

They shall not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
says the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

*Acts 10.34-43*

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>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. <sup>39</sup>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; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and

allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>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. <sup>42</sup>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. <sup>43</sup>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.**

*Please stand. As we sing we bring our flowers to decorate the cross.*

## ♪ Hymn ♪

The strife is o'er, the battle done;  
now is the Victor's triumph won;  
O let the song of praise be sung:  
*Alleluia!*

Death's mightiest powers have done  
their worst,  
and Jesus hath His foes dispersed;  
let shouts of praise and joy outburst:  
*Alleluia!*

On the third morn He rose again  
glorious in majesty to reign;  
O let us swell the joyful strain:  
*Alleluia!*

Lord, by the stripes which wounded  
Thee  
from death's dread sting Thy servants  
free,  
that we may live, and sing to Thee  
*Alleluia!*

*Latin hymn (17th century) trans. Francis Pott (1832-1909)*

## The Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

## **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

## **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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

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

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

*Luke 24.1-12*

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women who had accompanied Jesus came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they went in they did not find the body. <sup>4</sup>While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. <sup>6</sup>Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' <sup>8</sup>Then they remembered Jesus' words, <sup>9</sup>and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup>Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup>But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by

themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated*

## **The Sermon**

### **The Nicene Creed**

**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.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*To the words*

Jesus, Lord of life,

*We respond*

**in your mercy, hear us.**

*After the final prayer we say:*

Merciful Father,

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

## **¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

*Please stand*

### **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. *cf John 20.19*

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you

**and also with you. Alleluia.**

Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

### **♪ Hymn ♪**

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love,  
what depths of peace,  
when fears are stilled,  
when strivings cease!

My Comforter, my All in All,  
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! — who took on flesh,  
fullness of God in helpless babe!

This gift of love and righteousness,  
scorned by the ones He came to save:  
till on that cross as Jesus died,  
the wrath of God was satisfied —  
for every sin on Him was laid;  
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
light of the world by darkness slain;  
then bursting forth in glorious day  
up from the grave He rose again!

And as He stands in victory  
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
for I am His and He is mine —  
bought with the precious blood of  
Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
this is the power of Christ in me;  
from life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,

can ever pluck me from His hand;  
till He returns or calls me home,  
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

*Stuart Townend (b.1963) & Keith Getty (b.1974)*  
© 2001 Thankyou Music

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness,  
the power, the glory, the  
splendour, and the majesty;  
for everything in heaven and  
on earth is yours.**

**All things come from you,  
and of your own do we give  
you.**

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 is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

We give you thanks and praise for the  
gospel we have received. Christ died for  
our sins. Alleluia.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Death comes to all through Adam,  
and sin reigns for a time.

New life without end comes through  
Christ, and he reigns for ever. Alleluia.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Death, where is your victory?  
Death, where is your sting?  
Death is swallowed up in victory,  
the victory you give us in Christ.  
Alleluia.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

We have been crucified with Christ,  
and now live his risen life,  
to praise you for ever with angels and  
archangels.

**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.**

Father, on the night before he died,  
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.  
He took the bread, and thanked you.  
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body,  
given for you.

Do this to remember me.

After the meal,

Jesus took the cup of wine.

He thanked you, and gave it to them,  
saying:

Drink this, all of you.

This is my blood,

the new promise of God's unfailing love.

Do this to remember me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,  
and remember his death and  
resurrection, send your Holy Spirit,  
that we who share these gifts may be  
fed by Christ's body and his blood.



**Amen.**

Pour your Spirit on us  
that we may love one another,  
work for the healing of the earth,  
and share the good news of the risen  
Jesus, as we wait for his coming in glory.

**Amen.**

For honour and praise belong to you,  
Father, with Jesus your Son, and the  
Holy Spirit:  
one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Raised again with Christ in the power  
of the Spirit, 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**

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,  
whoever eats this bread will live  
for ever.

**Lord, our hearts hunger for  
you; give us this bread always.**

### **Agnus Dei**

**Jesus, Lamb of God:  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins:  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Redeemer of the world:  
give us your peace.**

### **Giving of Communion**

Alleluia. Christ our passover  
is sacrificed for us.

**Therefore let us keep the feast.  
Alleluia.**

*Communicant members of any Christian  
Church are invited to receive Holy  
Communion. If you wish to receive a  
blessing please bow your head.*

### **♪ Anthem ♪**

Away with gloom, away with doubt -  
Barry Ferguson

### **♪ Hymn ♪**

Now the green blade rises  
from the buried grain,  
wheat that in the dark earth  
many days has lain;  
love lives again,  
that with the dead has been:  
Love is come again,  
like wheat that springs up 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 springs up 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 springs up green.

When our hearts are wintry,  
grieving or in pain,  
then 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 springs up green.

*John MacLeod Campbell Crum (1872-1958)*  
© 1928 Oxford University Press

## **Prayer after Communion**

*Silence is kept.*

God of Life,  
who for our redemption gave your  
only-begotten Son to the death of the  
cross, and by his glorious resurrection  
have delivered us from the power of  
our enemy:  
grant us so to die daily to sin,  
that we may evermore live with him in  
the joy of his risen life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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.**

## **Notices**

### **♪ Hymn ♪**

Thine be the glory,  
risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory  
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 conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory,  
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 hath 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 conquerors,  
through Thy deathless love:  
bring us safe through Jordan  
to Thy home above:

*Edmond Budry (1854-1932) trans. Richard Hoyle  
(1875-1939) © Copyright Control*

## ¶ Dismissal

### The Blessing

All our problems  
**we send to the cross of Christ.**

All our difficulties  
**we send to the cross of Christ.**

All the devil's works  
**we send to the cross of Christ.**

All our hopes  
**we set on the risen Christ;**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you and  
all those whom you love and all those  
for whom you pray this Easter Day and  
for evermore.

**Amen.**

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

Go in the peace of Christ.  
Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia.**

*Please take this service sheet with you.*



For I handed on to you as of first  
importance what I in turn had received:  
that Christ died for our sins in  
accordance with the scriptures,<sup>4</sup>and  
that he was buried, and that he was  
raised on the third day in accordance  
with the scriptures.

*1 Corinthians 15.3-4*

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