

Easter Sunday service March 2020

Call to worship

Rise up and live!
Life springing forth from death is offered to the world.
Thanks be to you, O Christ!

Christ is risen, alive in overflowing grace.
Thanks be to you, O Christ!

Christ is risen, alive in the determined survival of good.
Thanks be to you, O Christ! Death is overcome forever.

SONG (Casting Crowns – Glorious Day YouTube film version)

Prayer of Invocation

As we wait in awe this day, we pray that signs of the risen Christ will be made real among us.
Be present with us in ways which go deeply into our life, O God,
that we may find the passion of your life within us and around us.
This we pray in faith because we believe that you are alive.
Amen

Prayer of Confession

Living God, even as we announce your rising, we confess we are still searching,
searching so often among the tombs of our lives for signs of you, wondering if you are really alive.
Forgive us for those moments when doubts beset us.
Come, meet us, Lord, free from the nails that held you and the cloths that bound you,
and be known to us as we worship in faith.
**Forgive us, O God, spring forth in truth before us, we pray,
that we may share more fully in your risen life. Amen**

Words of assurance

This is the time when we live as though our sins are truly forgiven,
because Christ is alive and death is defeated forever.
Receive the grace of God
and carry the news of the grace you have received to all who would hear.
This is the good news for all people: We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God! Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving

What words will ever be enough, O God?
What songs can we sing to shout aloud our praise?
The universe springs up in joy at the sound of your voice
assuring the world that the winter of death gives way to the summer warmth of life.
We thank you that we cannot destroy you, that nothing can separate us from your love.
Thanks be to you, O God, for the miracle of Easter.
Amen

SONG – Thine Be The Glory

Readings

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:14-24; Matthew 28:1-10

Sermon

SERMON

Affirmation of faith

Let us affirm our faith together.
**We believe in the power of Christ to overcome all deaths;
deaths in us and death in the world.**

We believe in life which rises in freedom and carries us in joy
toward grace beyond our imagining,
calling our spirits to soar in freedom with wings of hope
borne high in the wonder of Easter Day.

The gift of life will never be taken from us.
The costly life of God will be our company, for ever and ever,
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

On this day when we celebrate your risen life, O Christ,
we think of all the places and people who are sharing in it too, a vast network of your people around the globe.
We give you thanks for the vibrant, growing churches; for the struggling ones, barely surviving for lack of members;
for the tiny but faithful churches in remote regions, for the lively mega-churches in the cities;
for the people learning to worship online and those who worship faithfully, alone at home, or whilst they go about their day.

However, on this day we also think of the places and people who rarely share in that joy,
because their own lives are bowed down by the weight of fear, worry or need;
by illness, or oppression; those who live with war or who have fled as refugees.
We pray particularly for health workers at this time, and all those who are working to keep us safe and supplied at this time.
We light our candles and remember them before you now...

(Video clips of parish council members lighting candles in their own homes)

Lift up your risen life, that all can see it, Lord, we pray.
Help us to be your outstretched, wounded hands, that the world may believe you care.
Help us to be your walking, wounded feet, taking knowledge of you to the world.
Help us to be your living, renewed presence, so that the world will know you are alive.

Embrace your church, O God, that we may know your life-giving love so profoundly,

that our celebration flows over and covers our suffering world with the abundance of your peace.

Christ has died

Christ IS RISEN

Christ will come again.

Amen

Commisioning

Go into all the world, as those who are filled with the risen life of Jesus Christ, and bearers of his grace.

Blessing

May the wonder of Easter break forth anew in us, in those that we love and in all the earth.

On this day and in the days to come.

And the blessing of God Almighty, F,S and HS, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen

SONG – The Greatest Day in History (Happy Day)