



Where all find a welcome and are nurtured in their journey with Christ.

# The sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 9 May 2021 at 10.00 am

“Jesus said "I call you friends".”

*John 15:15*

# The Gathering

*Our worship begins at the sound of the bell, please stand as the sacred ministers enter, during which the introit hymn is sung.*

Come down, O Love divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;

O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let thy glorious light  
shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illumining.

Let holy charity  
mine outward vesture be,  
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;  
true lowliness of heart,  
which takes the humbler part,  
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,  
with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the pow'r of human telling;  
nor can we guess its grace,  
till we become the place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

*Words: Bianco da Siena (d. 1434) translated Richard Littledale (1833-1890)*

*Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

*Verse 4 harmony arr. Ian Tracey (b. 1955)*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you

**and also with you.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

# Words of Welcome

## Prayers of Penitence

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God.

Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

*cf Romans 6.10*

*Silence is kept.*

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the living bread.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*The president says*

May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

## **The Collect**

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray'.*

God our redeemer,  
you have delivered us from the power of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:  
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,  
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us  
to eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ your Son 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.*

# The Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, “Can anyone withhold the water for baptising these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” So he ordered them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

*Acts 10:44-end*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading

*Please stand as an acclamation is sung to herald the Gospel.*

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.'

*John 11:25,26*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these

commands so that you may love one another.

*John 15:9-17*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

*Please sit after the preacher leads us in prayer.*

## **The Nicene Creed**

*Please stand with the president.*

Let us declare our faith in God.

**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**

*Following an invitation to pray from the intercessor we sit and the response to the bidding is:*

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

*Then at the end.*

Merciful Father,

**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
Our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

*Please stand with the president.*

## 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.

*John 20:19,20*

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

## Preparation of the Table

*The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

*A Hymn is sung.*

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here;  
come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.

In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;  
he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned.  
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of Light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place,  
he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.  
No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him;  
be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

*Words & Music: David Evans (b. 1957)*

## **Taking of the Bread and Wine**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.  
In your loving care you spread before us the table of life  
and give us the cup of salvation to drink.  
Keep us always in the fold of our Saviour and our Shepherd,  
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

*Please sit.*

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.**

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.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world.**

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 Blessed Mary 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.**

*Silence is kept.*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.*

**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.**

## **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.**

## Invitation to Communion

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

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

*The president and people receive communion. At the giving of communion, the president receives communion in both kinds.*

*The words of distribution (“The body and blood of Christ, broken/shed for us all”) are spoken to the congregation, and all who intend to receive reply with “Amen”.*

*At the distribution, please follow the guidance offered by the stewards. Holy Communion is administered without speaking. The consecrated bread is dropped into the hands of communicants. To reduce the risk of spreading any infection, communion will be in one kind (bread) only. This is still considered to be complete communion by the Church of England.*

*For those at home it might be helpful to use this prayer during the distribution.*

***Abide with us Lord, throughout this day.***

***Abide with us in our journeying, and in our homes.***

***Abide with us in our seeking and in our longings.***

***Abide with us now and to eternity,***

***Jesus, risen Lord,***

***who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit  
in glory for ever. Amen.***

## The Post Communion Prayer

*Please stand with the president who introduces a time of silent prayer with the words ‘Let us pray’.*

**God our Father,**

**whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:**

may we thirst for you,  
the spring of life and source of goodness  
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Father of all,**  
**we give you thanks and praise,**  
**that when we were still far off**  
**you met us in your Son and brought us home.**  
**Dying and living, he declared your love,**  
**gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.**  
**May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;**  
**we who drink his cup bring life to others;**  
**we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.**  
**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,**  
**so we and all your children shall be free,**  
**and the whole earth live to praise your name;**  
**through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

*Please stand as a hymn is sung.*

God is love: let heav'n adore him;  
God is love: let earth rejoice;  
let creation sing before him,  
and exalt him with one voice.

He who laid the earth's foundation,  
he who spread the heav'ns above,  
he who breathes through all creation,  
he is love, eternal Love.

God is love: and he enfoldeth  
all the world in one embrace;  
with unfailing grasp he holdeth  
ev'ry child of ev'ry race.

And when human hearts are breaking  
under sorrow's iron rod,  
then they find that self-same aching  
deep within the heart of God.

God is love: and though with blindness  
sin afflicts the human soul,  
God's eternal loving-kindness  
guides and heals and makes us whole.  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
o'er us final triumph gain;  
God is love, so love for ever  
o'er the universe must reign.

*Words: Timothy Rees (1874-1939)*  
*Music: William Penfro Rowlands (1860-1937)*

## The Dismissal

### The Blessing

God the Father,  
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,  
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

### The Dismissal

With the power that raised Jesus  
from the dead at work within you,

go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

**In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.**

*Come down, O Love divine*  
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Arrangement of last verse © Kevin Mayhew Ltd

**Gospel acclamation**  
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*Be still, for the presence of the Lord*  
© Kingsway's Thankyou Music

**Organ music during communion**  
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*God is love: let heaven adore him*  
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