

Dorset South & West Circuit Written Service Sunday 18th April by Peter Jenner
3rd Sunday of Easter

Welcome

I hope and prayer that as you receive our written service for today that you are well and safe and feeling hopefully for the future.

Call to Worship Psalm 4 verses 6 – 8

There are those who say "O that we might see some good!". Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord! You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound. I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.

Opening Hymn: StF 57 Let all the world in every corner sing

Let all the world in every corner sing: Let all the world in every corner sing:
my God and King! my God and King!

The heavens are not too high, The Church with psalms must shout,
his praise may thither fly; no door can keep them out;
the earth is not too low, but above all, the heart
his praises there may grow. Must bear the longest part.

Let all the world in every corner sing: Let all the world in every corner sing:
my God and King! my God and King!

George Herbert (1593-1633)

Prayer of Adoration & Confession and Collect for 3rd Sunday of Easter.

Lord of life and of creation, we come to worship you this day.

We come as we are as you have called us to be in your presence.

Each new day brings hope, shows love and gives us strength to serve our friends, family and Community.

We praise you that you know us better than we know ourselves.

You are our constant companion on the road of life with all its twists and turns for which we give our thanks and praise.

You gave your life by taking on the sins of humanity and raised triumphant so that we could begin again and have new life in all its fullness.

Thanks be to God. Amen

But Lord, we do not always get it right, we go our own way, step of the path way and stumble when we are unsure of what to do.

Forgive us we pray and help us to keep to the path, to do your will, to be your witness just as Jesus called his disciples to be.

May we be true to your message of love, hope, peace, justice as we seek redemption and salvation through and in you, our Lord, Saviour, Redeemer and friend. Amen.

Collect for Third Sunday of Easter

Christ our friend, you ask for our love in spite of our betrayal. Give us courage to embrace forgiveness, know you again, and trust ourselves in you; we pray in your name. Amen

Taken from Methodist Worship Book page 541

New Testament Reading – Acts Chapter 3 verses 12-19

Peter speaks in Solomon's Portico.

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you

see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out. The New Revised Standard Version.

Hymn: StF 342 All hail the power of Jesu’s name

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| All hail the power of Jesu’s name! | Let every kindred, every tribe |
| Let angels prostrate fall; | on this terrestrial ball, |
| Bring forth the royal diadem, | to him all majesty ascribe, |
| And crown him Lord of all. | and crown him Lord of all! |

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| You seed of Israel’s chosen race, | O that with yonder scared throng |
| you ransomed of the fall, | we at his feet may fall, |
| hail him who saves you by his grace, | join in the everlasting song, |
| and crown him Lord of all. | And crown him Lord of all! |

Hail him, the heir of David’s line
whom David Lord did call,
the God incarnate, man divine,
and crown him Lord of all.

Edward Perronet (1726-1792)
adapted by John Rippon (1751- 1836)

Gospel reading – Luke Chapter 24 verses 36-48 Jesus Appears to his Disciples

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see I have” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?”. They gave him a piece of boiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you -that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be filled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning with Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”
The New Revised Standard Version

Prayer of Thanksgiving.

Lord Jesus Christ we bring out thanks to you this day. We thank you for this last week, for the things that we have enjoyed and as restrictions ease (we hope and pray) for the opportunity to meet up with either 6 people or two households outside, to see people which we have not been able to do in such numbers over the last 3 months. We thank you for the small things in life, for food on our table, for receiving a telephone call, card, present and for your creation coming alive which we see in our gardens, as we go for a walk or a drive in the car.
Thank you, thank you Lord. Amen

Reflection

In our readings today we have Jesus appearing to his disciples in Jerusalem and Peter giving the Israelites a good talking to about what they had done by handing Jesus over to Pilate. The appearance of Jesus to his disciples who he had spent so much time with him in his ministry as he prepared them for what would happen eventually at that they would be the torch bearers of faith even though they did not always understand what Jesus was getting at which is the same for us to

today, we thinking we have got the message but the message still leaves us with even more questions. The disciples were distraught, didn't know what to do, stayed together, wanted to make sense of it all. Is that how we feel about the Resurrection before we get to Easter morning? Before Jesus appears to the disciples, we have the account of Cleopas and another follower on their way home to Emmaus talking about the events of the last few days when they are joined by a third person who they are prevented from recognizing until the three ate together and bread was broken. It was only then they recognized Jesus and before they could get their breath back so to speak Jesus had vanished from their sight. What they had experienced needed to be told to the other disciples, so they headed back to Jerusalem and told the disciples what had happened. Is this Jesus que to appear to them, to be stood among them, to see him clearly, for the disciples to touch him, to see for themselves the marks on his hands and feet and then to eat with them. No wonder they were startled and terrified. They thought that they were seeing a ghost? What would you or I have been like, would we have thought the same? Jesus body was, not a restored human body like that of Lazarus, Jesus was able to appear and disappear, his body was immortal. Jesus spent 40 days with his disciples between his resurrection and ascension. Jesus opens his disciples' minds to give them a better understanding of scripture. Does this happen with us as we read, digest, ponder, question? Do we ask God to guide us through the Holy Spirit to open our minds to all sorts of possibilities and answers that scripture has and does offer?

As we turn to our reading from Acts, we see Peter putting the Israelites straight about what they have done by, making them think about when the question was asked by Pilate who should be saved, they said Barabbas over Jesus.

The religious leaders thought that they had put an end to Jesus but it was the reverse. It had made the work and words of Jesus ministry even stronger.,

God had brought Jesus back to life and the apostles were witness to that.

Peter showed through his words the significance of the Resurrection and how God was triumphant through his power over death. It was Jesus who received the glory for the healing of the lame man. The apostles did not emphasize what they could do but what God could do through them.

What about us?

Do we ask for God's help when talking about the Good News of Jesus, do we feel refreshed in and through the Resurrection of Jesus, do we pray for a deeper understanding of his word? I finish my reflection with a question.

"How are you and I going to be the modern-day disciples through Resurrection love and hope?"
Amen

All heaven declares

All heaven declares
the glory of the risen Lord;
who can compare
with the beauty of the Lord?
For ever he will be
the Lamb upon the throne;
I gladly bow the knee,
and worship him alone .

I will proclaim
the glory of the risen Lord,
who once was slain
To reconcile us to God.
For ever you will be
the lamb upon the throne;
I gladly bow the knee,
and worship you alone.

Noel Richards (b.1955) & Tricia Richards (b.1960)

Prayers for Others, Ourselves & The Lord's Prayer

Lord we come before you this sabbath day to prayer for the world, our communities and ourselves: We pray for the world which is going through so many changes, climate change, the way the Covid pandemic has turned the world upside down both in terms of human loss, economic downturns, wellbeing and mindfulness challenged and a new way of life formulated. Help us Lord to make the best of all things as we say daily changes, may your love, grace and mercy guide us all though these challenging times.

We pray for our communities, for those who have lost their jobs and finding it difficult to make ends meet, for those who mourn, for those who have to isolate due to Covid, for all key works who are

the back bone of our communities, for all who volunteer in whatever capacity and for the Church as it seeks to support all people in spiritual wellbeing, wholeness and love. We pray for ourselves Lord that we might be more like you in daily living. That our actions and words will match the ones that you have called us to live by. May we be a shining light that beams wherever we are and wherever we are called by you to love and to serve. We ask these our prayers through and in the Risen Lord. Amen

The Lord's prayer – Modern Version

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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen

Closing Hymn: StF 319 Christ triumphant, ever reigning.

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| Christ triumphant, ever reigning, Saviour, Master, King! Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining, hear us as we sing: Yours the glory and the crown, the high renown, the eternal name! | Priestly king, enthroned for ever high in heaven above! Sin and death and hell shall never stifle hymns of love: Yours the glory |
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| Word incarnate, truth revealing, Son of Man on earth! Power and majesty concealing by your humble birth: Yours the glory | So, our hearts and voices raising through the ages long, ceaselessly upon your gazing, this shall be our song: Yours the glory and the crown, The high renown, the eternal name! |
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| Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated, victim crucified! Death is through the cross defeated, sinners justified: Yours the glory | Michael Saward (1932-2015) |
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Closing Prayer and Blessing.

The Lord of the empty cross is the one who calls us.
The Lord of the empty tomb is the one who sends us.
The Lord who "empties out" the Holy Spirit is the one who empowers us.
The Lord who fills empty hearts and lives goes with us.
And the blessing of God, Spirit, Son, and Father, remain with you always. Amen