



Parish of St. Thomas, Apostle & Martyr, Ipswich

12th April 2020 EASTER DAY

Although we are not able to celebrate Easter together in Church this year, we know we are together in Spirit. This year Holy Week has been especially meaningful, as we -together with people across the world – are facing much loss and death. The priest and poet, Malcolm Guite' says in his poem 'The anointing at Bethany' (see John 12.1-9)

'The heart is mourning but the spirit dances,
here at the very centre of all things,
here at the meeting place of love and loss
we all foresee and see beyond the cross'.

It is our custom at St Thomas to meet for the Easter Vigil Service on Holy Saturday. In the dark we listen to bible readings telling our salvation history; we then go outside to light a new fire from which we light the new Easter Candle, the symbol of the risen Christ. We bring it into church, sing an ancient hymn, called the *Exultet (Rejoice)* and then we proclaim three times that 'Christ is Risen'! This year, the St Thomas Easter candle will be blessed at the Dawn Easter Vigil service at the Bishop's Chapel, starting at 5am on Easter Day (livestream on Facebook).



Prayer at the Marking of the Easter Candle

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.**

The nails on the candle are inserted with these words

By his holy /and glorious wounds/ guard us/ and keep us.

Prayer at the lighting of the candle

May the light of Christ, rising in glory
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

Collect for Easter Day

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.

We wish you a **Happy Easter: that you may know the Peace of the risen Christ,**
who came and stood among his disciples and said 'Peace be with you'.
Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord.
Alleluia! The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

Readings & Reflection

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6.3-11)

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (28.1-10)

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But 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. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

This is the gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, o Christ.

Reflection

In the four gospels, the stories of what happened on the first day of week, at dawn, are all slightly different. This is not surprising given the state the women and disciples were in after the events of Good Friday, followed by the shock of finding the tomb empty. Today, we read Matthew's gospel, which is especially dramatic, at once very frightening and utterly astonishing and awesome. Here, the women experience an earthquake and see the angel -what a sight!- rolling away the stone, sitting on it and talking to them. The guards faint! The women stand firm and hear the angel's words: 'do not be afraid – go and have a look where he lay- he is gone! Then the women run, filled with fear and joy, to tell the disciples; and they meet Jesus on the road. They take hold of his feet and worship him. He again says: Do not be afraid and sends them to the disciples with a message.



May I suggest that you spend some time this Easter with this gospel story and read it slowly, ponder the words, listen with the 'ear of your heart' and notice which words/ part of the story stand out for you. And then, talk to Jesus about it. Wishing you faith, joy and peace!

Revd Jutta

Here are the words of two hymns you may like to sing or pray this week

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| <p>Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain, Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain; Love lives again, that with the dead has been: Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.</p> <p>In the grave they laid him, Love by hatred slain, Thinking that never he would wake again. Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen: Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.</p> <p>Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain, He that for three days in the grave had lain. Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen: Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.</p> <p>When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, Thy 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 springeth green.</p> <p><i>John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872-1958)</i></p> | <p>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.</p> <p>Refrain: Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son, Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Edmond L Budry (1854-1932)</i> <i>transl. Richard Birch Hoyle (1875-1939)</i></p> |
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Easter Sunday Worship on radio & TV

BBC Radio 4 *Sunday 12 April, 8.10-9am*

In a specially-compiled studio service, pre-recorded close to transmission, the Archbishop of Canterbury leads a meditation to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Urbi et Orbi (Pope Francis) BBC One 11 am

Live from Rome, Pope Francis delivers his Easter Message and Blessing Urbi et Orbi - to the city and to the world. BBC Religion Editor Martin Bashir, will provide commentary.

Sunday Worship BBC One 11.25am

A special edition of Sunday Worship, with an Easter Sunday service coming from Bangor Cathedral in Wales, led by the Dean of Bangor, the Very Reverend Kathy Jones.

If you would like to chat, please give us a ring:

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| <p>Please pray for: Eric Dickerson, Rosemary, Adam, Andrew Barfield, Alan Seeley (Martin's dad, his condition has deteriorated), Kathy Steele, Frank D., Andrew Derrett, Peggy, Pat, Natacha, Clare Baxter, Christine, Stephen, Julie, Samantha, Jill, Rex, Molly Johansen, Mike Harding, Emily, Tilly, Juliet Adams, Mark Eley, Matthew Hare, Gloria Elmer, Margaret Christian, Helen Harlow, Jean Dominy, Amanda, Jim & Daphne (now home)</p> <p>Those who have died: Janice (Caroline's cousin)</p> <p>Pray for all who are affected by the Coronavirus, their families and friends, in the UK and around the world; for health care staff and all who are working long hours in the service of others.</p> <p>For victims of conflict and natural disaster around the world, support agencies and peacemakers; for all who have died.</p> |  <p>Baby Dylan, born on 22 March & Naomi, his mum.</p> <p>Pray for members of the St Thomas Congregation (each week we will include a dozen names)</p> <p>Sylvia & Russell Dickerson, Sue Dickerson, Keri, Justin, Kyle, Bradley, Millie & Wester, Roger and Gloria, Joanne, Pam, Christine (choir) Caroline (choir) & family</p> |
|  <p>Birthdays this week:</p> <p>None</p> |  |

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| <p>Appeal from Rev Celia Cook, Chaplain at Ipswich Hospital</p> <p>A huge thank you to you all for the wonderful boxes of food and drink. They have been much appreciated, particularly as the hospital cafes close and fewer people are allowed to visit. It is a really difficult time here: there is fear in the air, with many staff who are parents, children or partners of vulnerable relatives. The porters and estates staff feel very forgotten too and have been touched by your concern and care for their wellbeing.</p> <p>We would greatly appreciate further donations which can be left in the chapel 24/7. Please continue to buy the following:</p> <p>Cans of drink, Cartons of juice, Fruit Small packets of biscuits, Crisps, Chocolate, Sweets (special request from Somersham Ward for Freddos, fingers of fudge, Maoams and Haribos!</p> | <p>Church website: http://stthomasipswich.org.uk/</p> <p>Church Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/stthomasipswich/</p> <p><i>Please, look out for a worship video on our facebook page on Sunday morning.</i></p> <p>Contacts: Priest in charge: Revd Jutta Brueck m: 07958 360564 Email: jutta.brueck@cofesuffolk.org Jutta's days off are: Fridays & Saturdays Assistant Curate: Revd Cat Connolly m: 07530 412988 Email: revcatconnolly@gmail.com Cat's day off: Mondays</p> |
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