



Sunday 21st April 2024  
Fourth of Easter

St John's Church, Kidlington

[www.kidhp.org.uk](http://www.kidhp.org.uk)

*In this and all our services the indications to sit / stand  
are invitations not instructions.  
Please adopt whatever posture most suits you.*

## The Gathering

Hymn: CA 304 I come with Joy

1 I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall,  
in love laid down for me.

2 I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread.

3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends.

4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
alive among us here.

5 Together met, together bound  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one.

Brian A. Wren (b. 1936)

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

**Amen.**

## The Greeting

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

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

## Prayers of Penitence

### 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.

### Confession

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.**

### Absolution

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

**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 sins 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

Let us pray.

*We keep silence.*

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:  
raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,  
that we may seek those things which are above,  
where he reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

*Please sit*

First Reading: Acts 4. 1-12

While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead. So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who heard the word believed; and they numbered about five thousand.

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised

from the dead. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone". There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual Hymn: CA 649 The King of Love

The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never.  
I nothing lack if I am his,  
and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow,  
my ransomed soul he leadeth;  
and where the verdant pastures grow,  
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me;  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill,  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and oh, what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days,  
thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house forever.

Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877) based on Psalm 23

## Gospel Reading John 10. 11-18

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore. **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away – and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

*Please sit*

Sermon

*Please stand*

The 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 worshiped 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.**

*Please sit or kneel*

Prayers of Intercession

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.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you  
**and also with you. Alleluia.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

Offertory Hymn: AMNS 262 Alleluia, sing to Jesus!

Alleluia, sing to Jesus!

his the sceptre, his the throne;

Alleluia, his the triumph,

his the victory alone:

hark, the songs of peaceful Sion  
thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus out of every nation  
hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia, not as orphans  
are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia, he is near us,  
faith believes, nor questions how:  
Though the cloud from sight received him  
when the forty days were o'er  
shall our hearts forget his promise,  
'I am with you evermore'?

Alleluia, bread of angels,  
thou on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluia, here the sinful  
flee to thee from day to day:  
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,  
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,  
Where the songs of all the sinless  
sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia, King eternal,  
thee the Lord of lords we own;  
Alleluia, born of Mary,  
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:  
thou within the veil hast entered,  
robed in flesh, our great High Priest;  
thou on earth both Priest and Victim  
in the eucharistic feast.

W Chatterton Dix (1837-98)

## Taking of the Bread and Wine

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

Risen Lord Jesus Christ,  
we believe you, and all we have heard is true.  
When you break bread  
may we recognize you as the fire that burns within us,  
that we may bring light to your world.

**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.**

It is indeed right,  
it is our duty and our joy,  
at all times and in all places  
to give you thanks and praise,  
holy Father, heavenly King,  
almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you  
because you raised him gloriously from the dead.  
For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us,  
and has taken away the sin of the world.  
By his death he has destroyed death,  
and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**  
**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**  
**Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by  
the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine

may be to us his body and his blood;

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Christ is the bread of life:  
**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

*Please sit or kneel*

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

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.**

Giving of Communion

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.  
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.  
Eat and drink  
in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

## The Distribution of Communion

### Hymn CA 584 Rock of Ages

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood,  
from thy wounded side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure;  
save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labours of my hands  
can fulfil thy law's demands;  
could my zeal no respite know,  
could my tears forever flow,  
all for sin could not atone;  
thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,  
simply to the cross I cling;  
naked, come to thee for dress;  
helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly;  
wash me, Saviour, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when mine eyes shall close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown,  
see thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee.

Augustus Montague Toplady (1740-78)

## Prayer after Communion

Merciful Father,  
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,  
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:  
keep us always under his protection,  
and give us grace to follow in his steps;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.**

## The Sending Out

*Please stand*

## The Blessing

The God of peace,  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
that great shepherd of the sheep,  
through the blood of the eternal covenant,  
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,  
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you and those whom you love,  
this day and 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.**

### Hymn CA 187 Forth in the peace of Christ

1 Forth in the peace of Christ we go;  
Christ to the world with joy we bring;  
Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,  
Christ in our hearts, the world's true King.

2 King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings;  
kingship with him his servants gain;  
with Christ, the Servant-Lord of all,  
Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.

3 Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth  
the world of time to consecrate,  
the world of sin by grace to heal,  
Christ's world in Christ to re-create.

4 Prophets of Christ, we hear his word:  
he claims our minds to search his ways;  
he claims our lips to speak his truth;  
he claims our hearts to sing his praise.

5 We are his Church, he makes us one:  
here is one hearth for all to find;  
here is one flock, one Shepherd-King;  
here is one faith, one heart, one mind.

James Quinn (b.1919)

### **Safeguarding**

If you, or someone you know, has been impacted by abuse or has concerns, please speak to the Safeguarding Officer for our parish, Yo Davies (07865 664451; [safeguarding@kidhp.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@kidhp.org.uk)) or the Diocesan Safeguarding Team (01865 208295; [safeguardingreferrals@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:safeguardingreferrals@oxford.anglican.org)).



FROM *BACH*

TO *Bollywood*

**AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN!**

An evening of music, words and dance  
presented by the choristers and choir of  
St Mary's and their friends



**SATURDAY 18TH MAY 2024**

**6.30 PM**

**ST MARY'S CHURCH KIDLINGTON**

Free admission and refreshments  
with a retiring collection for  
St Mary's funds



**Our 'Joseph Challenge' day of fun and fellowship is on Sunday, 21st April 2024.**

**It is at St Mary's Church, Kidlington from 11am – 5pm.**

The focus is on fun and fellowship. Everyone from our three churches is invited. Everyone will be able to get involved. You can choose what you do. Anyone interested in being involved is welcome to come along on Friday 12th of April, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the refectory.

Here are a few 'Dos' and 'Don'ts' for the actual day:

X Don't wear anything special – just your normal clothes

Do come and join us – no pressure – stay as long as you can. (We start at 11am and finish at 5pm).

Do bring something to share with others for lunch.

Do let us know that you are coming (if you can). If you haven't already signed up, please email [mrs.clare.morgan@googlemail.com](mailto:mrs.clare.morgan@googlemail.com) to say that you intend to come.

Do bring your parent/carer/helper to stay (and get involved) for the day if you need help and support or supervision. (We can't take responsibility for any under 18s on the day – children must be supervised at all times).

Do bring laughter, your sense of humour and your best smile. You will need them. There will be times to listen, wait and be very patient as we work together to get organised.

Do bring a copy of the music (if you have one). We will have words for everyone and some music copies for those who want it.

Do bring a cake (as well as lunch) if you can.

Everyone is invited. Everyone will be able to get involved, whether you are nearly nine, ninety-nine or anywhere in-between. We'll start working at St Mary's Kidlington after the morning services with breaks for a 'Bring and Share' lunch and some cake in the afternoon. We'll have our final run through at around 4.30pm.