



# Easter Celebration



**St Mary's Kidlington**

**5th April 2026 10am**

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

## **Easter Day and Every Day**

*Today is the most important day of the year!  
Today is the celebration of the victory  
of life over death,  
goodness over evil  
hope over despair.*

*Christian joy is not shallow happiness or feeling good;  
it is the assurance of this victory  
and deep trust in God that this Easter life  
permeates the whole of our lives—  
whether we feel good or not.*

*Easter is not just today, but every day.  
resurrection is for all of us  
and is all around us  
today and every day.*

*Let us celebrate with joyful hearts and minds!*

### **A Special Note for Visitors:**

*A special welcome to you today if you are visiting us.  
Around Christ's table, everyone is welcome.  
If it is your custom to receive communion in any Christian  
church you are welcome to receive it this morning,  
but if you would prefer to receive a blessing please do feel free  
to come forward and keep your head bowed.*

*During Covid many people got used to receiving the bread and  
the wine together, by priest's intinction - the priest dips the  
bread in the wine for you. Afterwards some people resumed  
the traditional custom of receiving the bread first and then  
sharing the wine from the common cup.*

*We now offer everyone the choice. If you would like the priest  
to intinct (dip for you) please give a nod. If you prefer to  
receive the wine from the common cup please shake your head  
and the priest will NOT intinct your bread. The common cup is  
always silver and will be on your right.  
All indications about sitting / standing are invitations and not  
instructions. Please sit or stand as is most comfortable for you.*

## Choir Introit: *This Joyful Eastertide—Wood*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

*Children's activities will run throughout the service at the back of church; you are invited to make free use of the resources. We do not worry about noise or the sounds of joyful activities!*

*There will also be short seed-planting activity in the side hall for all children after the decorating of the cross. Visiting children are most welcome.*

## Hymn 77

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains that he endured, Alleluia!  
our salvation have procured, Alleluia!  
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!  
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

## Welcome and Gathering Prayer:

Loving God,  
we have come to worship you.  
**Help us to pray to you in faith,  
to sing your praise with gratitude,  
and to listen to your word  
with eagerness;  
through Christ our Lord  
Amen.**



## Penitence and Absolution:

### **Today and every day**

Christ is raised  
Life is transformed  
We are raised

### **Today and every day**

Today and every day  
**We make mistakes**  
**We hurt each other**  
**We fail to be the people God calls us to be**  
Today and every Day

### **Today and every day**

The God of love and power  
Forgives you and frees you from your sins,  
Heals and strengthens you by his Spirit,  
And raises you to new life in Christ our Lord  
**Today and every day**  
**Amen. Alleluia!**

## The Gloria

*Tune: Woodlands*

Glory to God! We give you thanks and praise;  
Of heavenly joy and earthly peace we sing.  
We worship you, to you our hearts we raise,  
Lord God, almighty Father, heavenly King.

Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,  
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.  
O Lamb of God, your glorious vict'ry won,  
Receive our prayer, grant us your peace within.

Alone, O Christ, you only are the Lord,  
At God's right hand in majesty most high;  
Who with the Spirit worshipped and adored:  
With all the heavenly hosts we glorify.

## The Liturgy of the Word

The Collect:

**Lord of all life and power  
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son  
overcame the old order of sin and death  
to make all things new in him;  
grant that we, being dead to sin  
and alive to you in Christ Jesus,  
may reign with him in glory;  
to whom with you and the holy spirit  
be all praise and honour, glory and might,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

*Please sit*

New Testament Reading: *Acts 10:34-43*

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

"We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

This is the Word of the Lord   **Thanks be to God**

*Please stand*

The Gospel: *Matthew 28. 1-10*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you**

Hear the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

**Glory be to you O Lord**

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

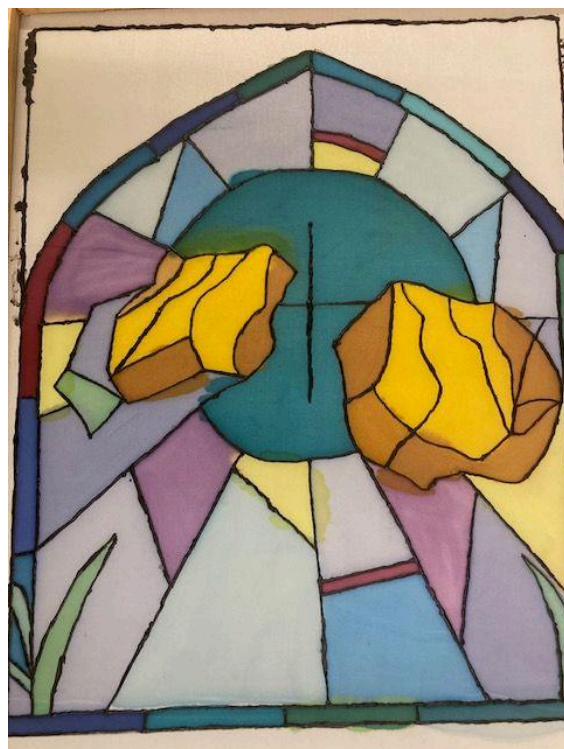
There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped 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 Christ  
**Praise be to you O Christ**



*During this hymn we are all invited to join in decorating the cross with flowers.*

*After this the children may wish to join the seed planting activity in the hall through the door in the north wall.*

## Hymn AMNS 83

Love's redeeming work is done;  
fought the fight, the battle won:  
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,  
lo, he sets in blood no more.

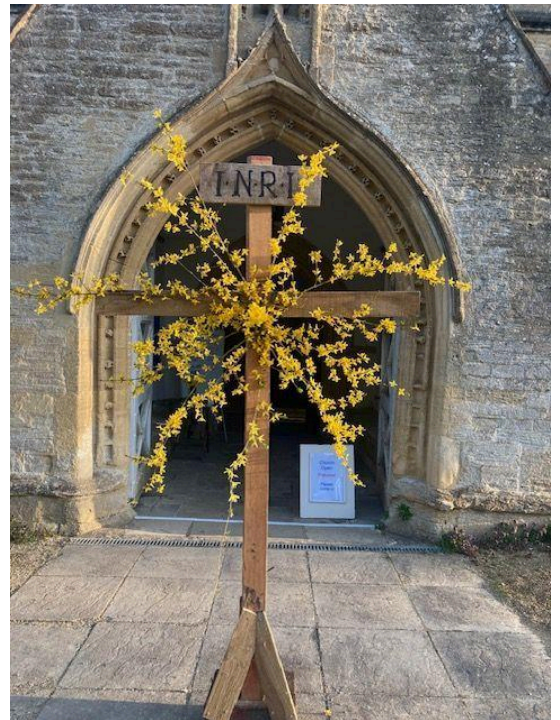
Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;  
Christ has burst the gates of hell;  
death in vain forbids his rise;  
Christ has opened paradise.

Lives again our glorious King;  
where, O death, is now thy sting?  
Dying once, he all doth save;  
where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led,  
following out exalted Head;  
made like him, like him we rise,  
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!  
praise to thee by both be given:  
thee we greet triumphant now;  
hail, the Resurrection thou!

*Charles Wesley (1707-88)*



Easter Reflections: The Rev'd Canon Felicity Scroggie

## Profession of Faith:

Brothers and sisters, on this great day of resurrection I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting**

## The Intercessions:

### The Peace:

The risen Christ stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you!' Then they were glad when they saw the Lord.

Alleluia! The peace of the risen Christ be always with you

**And also with you.**

Let us offer each other an Easter sign of peace:

**'The Lord is risen' and the answer, 'He is risen indeed'**



## Offertory Hymn

*We do not pass around a collection plate but you are warmly invited to contribute to the costs of ministry in this church by using the card reader at the entrance or through a cash donation in the collection plate beside it as you arrive or leave. You can also donate through our website. Thank you for your generosity which is much appreciated.*

## Hymn:

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save:  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The love of God was magnified -  
For every sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain:  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine -  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand:  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Stuart Townend, Keith Getty © 2002, Thankyou Music

## The Liturgy of the Eucharist

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**

*The Eucharistic prayer continues,  
during which we sing:*

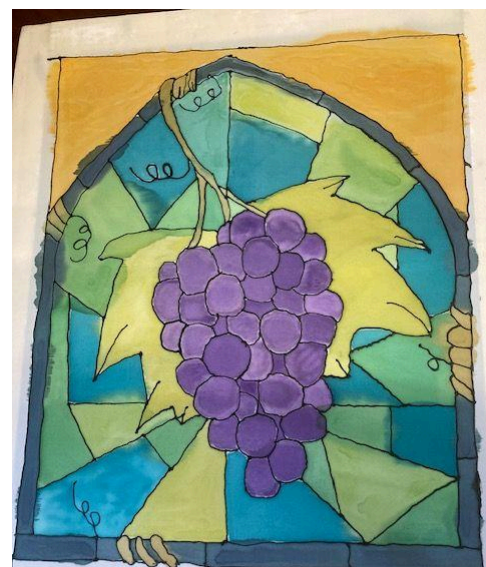
**Holy, Holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the Highest!  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord  
Hosanna in the highest!**

*And we say:*

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

*The Eucharistic Prayer ends with:*

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



As our Saviour taught us so we pray:

**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.**

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.**

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:

*You are welcome to receive communion today.  
If you are uncertain about how to do so please see the note  
inside the front cover.*

The body of Christ, **Amen**

The blood of Christ, **Amen**

*During communion the choir will sing the anthem:  
'Sing Unto the Lord A New Song'  
by Hewett.*

*The display of decorated chairs were made through Lent by the  
Making Group reflecting on the Eucharist and George Herbert's  
Poem Love III. This is God's invitation to each one of us to sit  
and eat with him around the altar.*



*After communion:*

**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 Blessing:

Christ who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future  
fill you with his new life,  
and the blessing of God Almighty  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit  
be with you this joyful Eastertide and for ever **Amen.**

Hymn AMNS 428

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.

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.*

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:

*Refrain*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;  
life is nought 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:

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.*

Go in the light and peace of Christ  
**Thanks be to God**

*The children are invited to go outside for an  
Easter egg hunt.*



Organ Voluntary: *Menuet Gothique - Boëllmann*

*Christians pray for each other.  
Every week our prayer team is available to pray with  
you simply and privately about anything that is on your  
mind, or indeed for another person about whom you  
care. If you would like them to pray with / for you  
please go to the Lady Chapel after the service - if they  
are already praying with someone please just sit  
outside the chapel until they are free.*

*And an Easter poem to take away:*

*Resurrection by R.S. Thomas*

*Easter. The grave clothes of winter  
are still here, but the sepulchre  
is empty. A messenger  
from the tomb tells us  
how a stone has been rolled  
from the mind, and a tree lightens  
the darkness with its blossom.  
There are travellers upon the road  
who have heard music blown  
from a bare bough, and a child  
tells us how the accident  
of last year, a machine stranded  
beside the way for lack  
of petrol, is crowned with flowers.*



**A very Happy and Blessed Easter to you  
from all the team in Kidlington and  
Hampton Poyle.**

**We are open every day, and everyone is  
welcome all through the year, for  
services, events, baptisms, weddings,  
and funerals.**

**Don't forget to come to our Children's  
Easter Fun Day this coming Tuesday.  
10-3pm in St Mary's Church.**

**Free entry but charge for some  
activities (bouncy castle, refreshments, and  
face painting all raise money towards camels  
coming at Christmas!)**

**Easter crafts, story time, Easter hunts,  
games, and fun for all.**

