

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 24 April 2022**

Second Sunday of Easter



Gathering music

Welcome

Call to worship

It is such a simple word, Peace. Five letters which spell out some of our greatest hopes: peace in our world; peace in our towns; peace in our homes; peace in our hearts. When peace is in pieces, where do we start? The only place we can – held in God's comforting, challenging embrace. Let us worship God.

Hymn 416 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift and war,
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Opening Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Easter has come. And so, it begins God... send your spirit into our locked places, into our hidden rooms, into the corners where betrayal and fear, where self-doubt and doubt in you keep us cowering. Send your spirit there for it begins there. Call us down into the world you love and put us to work. Call us down into the streets you walk and have our footsteps keep to yours. Call us down into the places you are needed and make us your body.

Easter has come, and so it begins God. When we would rather you stay in the pigeonholes we've crammed you in, when we would rather you conform to the social and cultural norms we have decided are appropriate, when we would rather you keep your opinions to yourself, forgive us and do your will anyway. Easter has come and so it begins God. It begins – again and again and again. Amen.

**...Our Father in heaven.
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Dedication of offerings

Sharing the Peace

Hymn 417 Now the green blade riseth

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.

In the grave they laid him, Love whom men had slain,
thinking that never he would awake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

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.

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.

Scripture Reading John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Jesus and Thomas

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

The Purpose of This Book

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Reflection

Hymn 707 Healing River of the spirit

Healing river of the Spirit,
bathe the wounds that living brings.
Plunge our pain, our sin,
our sadness deep within your sacred springs.
Weary from the restless searching
that has lured us from your side,
We discover in your presence
peace that world cannot provide.

Wellspring of the healing Spirit,
stream that flows to bring release,
As we gain ourselves, our senses,
may our lives reflect your peace.
Grateful for the flood that heals us,
may your church enact your grace.
As we meet both friend and stranger,
may we see our Saviour's face.

Living stream that heals the nations,
make us channels of your pow'r.
All the world is torn by conflict;
wars are raging at this hour.
Saving Spirit, move among us;
guide our winding human course,
Till we find our way together,
flowing homeward to our source.

Prayers of the People

Hymn 430 Christ has risen while earth slumbers (tune 'Ode to Joy')

Christ has risen while earth slumbers,
Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised,
as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;
let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumour.
Christ is risen, God is here!

Christ has risen for the people
whom he loved and died to save;
Christ has risen for the women
bringing flowers to grace his grave
Christ has risen for disciples
huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
is not silenced by the tomb.

Christ has risen and forever
lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen. Christ is present
making us what he has been –
evidence of transformation
in which God is known and seen.

Sending and blessing

Leader: The world is waiting.

All: Open the door.

Leader: There are things that need doing.

All: Open the door.

Leader: There are people who need loving.

All: Open the door.

Leader: It's time to go. Don't be afraid, Jesus goes with you.

All: Open the door.

Leader: God, as we leave, breathe your peace on us... illuminate our hearts and open the doors of our souls. As we step outside, walk the way with us. Beloved of God, go in the deep peace of the creator, the companion-peace of the son, and the restless peace of the spirit, this day and forevermore.

Sending music

Worship Leaders: Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, Selda Dow

Scripture Reader: Selda Dow

Organist/pianist: Jamie Turnbull

Technical team: Alison Bruce, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott,
Phillipa Burgess, Amy Marcham, Ruth Forrester

Sources:

Scripture reading taken from the New Revised Standard Version

All hymns from Church Hymnary 4th Edition

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