

Sunday 28 April 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter

If you have difficulty in standing please feel free to sit during any part of the service.

The priest welcomes the congregation and a time of silence follows for prayer.

When the organ starts the hymn, please stand to sing:

Paschal Feast! Upon the cross
Jesus gave himself to save us.
Sin's sad leaven throw away:
break the bread of life he gave us.
Alleluia!

Risen again, our living Lord
death's dominion now has shattered.
Now we share his risen life,
hell's dread powers for ever scattered.
Alleluia!

Christ is risen from the grave,
all who sleep in death awaking.
First fruit of the harvest field:
now our Easter dawn is breaking.
Alleluia!

As through man death comes to all,
so has man unlocked death's prison.
As in Adam all are dead,
so in Christ shall all be risen.
Alleluia!

Edwin Le Grice (1911–1992) based on *The Easter Anthems*
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number 214

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The Lord be with you
and also with you

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen

Christ died to sin once for all,
and now he lives to God.
Let us renew our resolve to have done
with all that is evil
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

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.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

We remain standing to sing the Gloria:

**Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the Highest.
Glory to God in the Highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, Heav'nly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the Highest.
Lord, Jesus Christ,
only son of the Father.
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the Highest.
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.
Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the Highest.**

*Remain standing for The Collect,
which is introduced by the words 'Let us pray'.*

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us
the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Sit for the readings.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 8.26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

A reading from the first letter of John.

I John 4.7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Stand to sing the Gradual Hymn:

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain ;
love lives again, that with the dead has been :

Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

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

Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for the three days in the grave had lain,
back from the dead my risen Lord is seen :

Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
then your touch can call us back to life again,
field of our hearts that dead and bare have been :

Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872–1958)*

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*We remain standing and turn to face where the Gospel
is read in the centre of the church.*

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Choir Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be
thirsty.

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord

John 15.1-8

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.’

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

The Sermon

Please sit after the short prayer.

We stand to say 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 worshipped 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 for prayers of intercession.

During the prayers:

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer

At the end:

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

Please stand for 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 Lord be always with you
and also with you.

No collection is taken during this service.

*There is a collection plate and contactless card machine near
the door or donations can be made online via our website
www.attleboroughchurch.org.uk/donate*

We stand to sing the Offertory Hymn.

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Daniel L. Schutte (b. 1947)

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We remain standing for the Prayer over the Gifts.

Be present, be present,
Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest;
make yourself known in the breaking of bread. **Amen**

We remain standing for the Eucharistic Prayer:

The Lord be with you
and also with you.
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 president praises God for his mighty acts.

*The choir sings the Sanctus and Benedictus from
Communion Service in G Nicholson*

*The president recalls the Last Supper,
during which this response is used:*

Great is the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died: Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

*The prayer continues and leads into the doxology,
to which all sing boldly **Amen***

Sit or kneel for The Lord's Prayer

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.**

The president gives the invitation to Communion:

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

If you normally receive Communion in any Church you are welcome to receive at this service; come forward to the altar rail now.

If you do not receive, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Carry this booklet, or bow your head, to indicate that you would prefer a blessing.

During the distribution the Agnus Dei is sung and the choir sings the anthem: The strife is o'er Ley

When everybody has received communion please keep a moment of silence before the post communion prayers:

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way,
the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen**

The notices are given.

We stand to sing the final hymn:

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end ;
be thou for ever near me,
my Master and my Friend :
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me :
the world is ever near ;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear ;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within ;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will ;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control ;
O speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be ;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end :
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.

O let me see thy foot-marks,
and in them plant mine own ;
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone :
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end ;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my Friend.

John Ernest Bode (1816–1874) Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern*
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We remain standing for the Blessing.

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord
Jesus Christ has given us the victory,
give you joy and peace in your faith;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Organ Voluntary: Chorale-Improvisation on
'Lobe den Herren, O meine Seele' Karg-Elert

Please stay for tea or coffee in the Hall after the service.

*Feel free to take this service sheet away with you
but please recycle it when no longer needed.*