

FLOURISH '23
HOLY COMMUNION
Sunday 16th April

GATHERING SONGS from around the world

OPENING RESPONSES

- Leader:* Thanks be to you, O God,
that we have risen this day
ALL: TO THE RISING OF THIS LIFE ITSELF.
- Leader:* Be the purpose of God
between us and each purpose,
ALL: THE HAND OF GOD
BETWEEN US AND EACH HAND.
- Leader:* The pain of Christ
between us and each pain,
ALL: THE LOVE OF CHRIST
BETWEEN US AND EACH LOVE.
- Leader:* O God who brought us
to the bright light of this new day
ALL: BRING US TO THE GUIDING LIGHT
OF ETERNITY.

SONG JESUS CALLS US

1. Jesus calls us here to meet him
as, through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God's promised presence
where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps each promise,
praise the Son who calls us friends,
praise the Spirit who, among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.
2. Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of life and Lord of all,
sharer of our flesh and frailness,
saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy, human story;
tell his tales that all may hear;
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.
3. Jesus calls us to each other,
vastly different though we are;
creed and colour, class and gender
neither limit nor debar.
Join the hand of friend and stranger,
join the hands of age and youth,
join the faithful and the doubter
in their common search for truth.
4. Jesus calls us to his table
rooted firm in time and space,
where the Church in earth and heaven
finds a common meeting place.
Share the bread and wine, his body;
share the love of which we sing;
share the feast for saints and sinners
hosted by our Lord and King.

PRAYER

Leader: God of life, do not darken your light to us,
Men: God of life, do not limit your joy in us,
Women: God of life, do not shut your door to us,
Leader: God of life, do not refuse us your mercy,
ALL: LORD, DO NOT REFUSE US YOUR MERCY.

Leader: Let us pray.

O God of life,
eternity cannot hold you,
nor can our little words catch
the magnificence of your kindness.
Yet in the space of our small hearts
and in silence
you can come close and repair us.

(Silence)

Leader: O God of life,
grant us your forgiveness
ALL: FOR OUR CARELESS THOUGHTS,
FOR OUR THOUGHTLESS DEEDS,
FOR OUR EMPTY SPEECH
AND THE WORDS WITH WHICH
WE WOUNDED.

(Silence)

Leader: O God of life,
grant us your forgiveness,
ALL: FOR OUR FALSE DESIRES,
FOR OUR HATEFUL ACTIONS,
FOR OUR WASTEFULNESS
AND FOR ALL WE LEFT UNTENDED.

(Silence)

Leader: O loving Christ,
hanged on a tree
yet risen in the morning,
scatter the sin from our souls
as the mist from the hills;
begin what we do,
inform what we say,
redeem who we are.

ALL: IN YOU WE PLACE OUR HOPE,
OUR GREAT HOPE, OUR LIVING HOPE,
THIS DAY AND EVERMORE
AMEN.

THE GOSPEL *(sung Alleluia)* John 20: 19-31

SERMON

AFFIRMATION

Leader: We believe, O God of all gods,
that you are the eternal maker of life:
we believe, O God of all gods,
that you are the eternal maker of love.

ALL: WE BELIEVE,
O LORD AND GOD OF ALL PEOPLE,
THAT YOU ARE THE CREATOR
OF THE HIGH HEAVENS,
THAT YOU ARE THE CREATOR
OF THE SKIES ABOVE,
THAT YOU ARE THE CREATOR
OF THE OCEANS BELOW.

Leader: We believe, O Lord and God of all people,
that you are the one who created our souls
and set their course,
that you are the one who created our bodies
from dust and from ashes,
that you gave to our bodies their breath
and to our souls their possession.

ALL: GOD, BLESS TO US OUR BODIES,
GOD, BLESS TO US OUR SOULS,
GOD, BLESS TO US OUR LIVES,
GOD, BLESS TO US OUR BELIEF.

PRAYER

(sung response)

O Lord,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.

INVITATION

HYMN WITHIN THE CIRCLE OF YOUR FRIENDS

1. Within the circle of your friends,
you found a place for me.
Beside those whom I often meet,
near people whom I've yet to greet
I'm privileged to be,
I'm privileged to be.
2. Within your commonwealth of love,
you found a place for me
to listen, heal, disturb or care,
seek words to sing, find truth to share,
let life be full and free,
let life be full and free.
3. Around the table you prepare,
you found a place for me
where, breaking bread and pouring wine,
you tell us all, 'This means you're mine.
and mine you'll always be,
and mine you'll always be.'
4. Now brother, servant, saviour, Lord,
I make a place for you.
Called to your feast, among your friends,
and keen to live as God intends,
I come to be made new,
I come to be made new.

THE STORY OF THE SACRAMENT

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(sung Sanctus)*

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE COMMUNION

PRAYER

HYMN CHRIST HAS RISEN

1. 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!
2. Christ has risen for the people
whom he died, through love, 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
can't be silenced by the tomb
3. Christ has risen to companion
former friends who feared the night,
sensing loss and limitation
where their faith had once burned bright.
They bemoan what is no longer,
they suspect no hopeful sign
till Christ ends their conversation,
breaking bread and sharing wine.
4. 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
through which God is known and seen.

BLESSING *(sung Amen)*