



ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SUTTON

12 APRIL 2020 EASTER DAY

Please join me for our

Easter Sunday Service at 10.30am on Sunday

(or at another convenient time) by following the Order of Service and singing in your own home.

I will be thinking of you all and praying for you at The Rectory at the same time and longing for our future reunion in Church.



Christ is risen
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.
Frances

Duty Warden: John Kerr

Sidespersons: Alistair Cruickshank, Richard West

Sound desk: Matthew Phillips

Server: Diane Young

Welcomer: Kaushalya Jeyaraj

Refreshments: Doreen Kennett

The Garden Tomb, a complete tomb from the time of Jesus, situated just outside the Damascus Gate (photo taken on pilgrimage to the Holy Land in May 2017).



St. Nicholas, Sutton

Worship on Easter Day

at 10.30am on 12 April 2020

led by Revd Frances Arnold, Priest-in-Charge

The Gathering

The Greeting

President

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Hymn Jesus Christ is risen today

Prayer of Preparation

We sit or kneel

**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.**

Prayers of Penitence

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

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.

1 Corinthians 5.7,8

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

President

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.**

Glory to God is said or sung

**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 sin 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

President says 'Let us pray'.

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 Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

First reading Jeremiah 31. 1-6

The joyful return of the exiles

read by Jean Chappell

Second reading Acts 10. 34-43

Gentiles hear the good news

read by Jean

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn Thine be the glory

Gospel Reading John 20. 1-18

Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene

read by Peter Wilson

The reader says

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

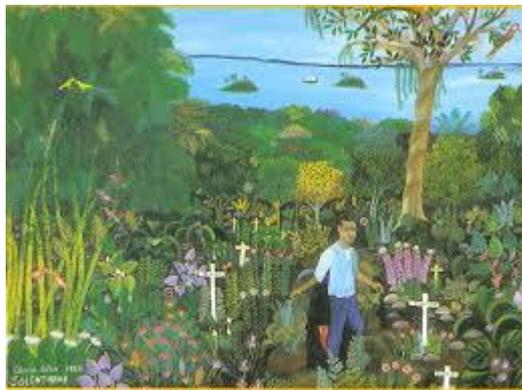
At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *The Revd Frances Arnold*

I have loved you with an everlasting love;
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you (Jeremiah 31. 3)



Resurrection by Olivia Silva (*The Gospel in Solentiname*)

This is an Easter like none most of us can remember. Following Jesus on his Passiontide journey, our hearts may now be stuck in Holy Saturday: unable (or unwilling) to move out of the emptiness and silence of the tomb.

For the very place in which we, as the body of Christ, find our identity, offer prayer and receive solace at difficult times – our beloved church of St Nicholas - is closed to us.

For Jesus' disciples, close association was not only difficult, it was politically dangerous. That may explain why Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark (just as Nicodemus had come to Jesus by night). Peter and John ran to the tomb on the same morning. They shared the fear, confusion and disorientation of all Jesus' closest followers and his family. But it is Mary alone to whom the risen Christ appears on the very first Easter morning.

Why does Jesus appear first to Mary? He is there for Mary at the tomb simply because she needs him most; because she stands outside the tomb weeping; and that is all she can do.

Mary is so totally alienated and distracted that she can only meet the Resurrection with utter bewilderment: the loss of Jesus has taken her apart from herself and she does not know what or where she is. Even when Jesus speaks to her, she is so overwhelmed with grief that she does not recognise him.

Jesus asks Mary: 'Why are you weeping?' and 'For whom are you looking?' These are two questions that could apply to every broken heart. And Jesus asks the questions, not because he needs to know the answer, but because Mary needs to recognise (in his way of questioning her) her teacher. Not just any teacher, but her own personal teacher and friend– 'Rabbouni.' And Mary does indeed recognise him when he gives her her name, and her life and her soul and restores the old relationship.

As we commemorate the path that Jesus walked, we too may be experiencing fear, confusion, disorientation and – perhaps – profound grief. Our response, like Mary's, might be to hold on to Jesus, and simply stay there. But with the dawning of Easter, we are helped by his victory to move from being with Christ (and from clinging on to him) to being *in* Christ. Jesus helped Mary to move on from the intimacy of his physical presence to a new fellowship in the Spirit. We too are part of this new relationship; the relationship made possible through the power by which God raised Jesus from the dead.

There is an irony in Jesus' being mistaken for the gardener here. In a deeper sense than Mary knew, Jesus is the gardener. For, just as on the sixth day of creation, God placed Adam in the garden of Eden to tend it and take care of it, so on the first day of the new creation, he puts the risen Jesus by the garden tomb. Jesus is the new Adam and Mary Magdalene is given to him as a new Eve. Paradise is regained in the garden of Resurrection and there is a new creation.

Jesus' mighty act of love – mending a broken heart and commissioning Mary as witness to his resurrection - resounds through the centuries to bring us the good news. Today, of all days, we can reflect that even in the hardest of times there is hope. God sent us his son; and Jesus, who experienced the fullness of our own human suffering, makes all things new.

When we resume our worshipping life together, it will be different from the one we paused. Nevertheless, we can look forward to it, and to receiving again the sacrament of Christ's body and blood. In the meantime, let us take inspiration from our gardener and teacher, Jesus, our risen Lord:

Ah my dear Lord, the church is locked,
But let my heart be open to your presence;
there let us make, you and I,
your Easter garden;
plant it with flowers,
and let the heavy stone be rolled away.

Amen

(Poem by Alan Amos)

The Creed

We stand

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Ever-living God,
help us to celebrate our joy
in the resurrection of the Lord
and to express in our lives
the love we celebrate.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

We hold in prayer all those affected by the Coronavirus and especially our chaplains,
volunteers and NHS health workers, nursing and medical staff caring for increasing
numbers....

Free prayer....

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

The Peace

President

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.

John 20.19,20

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants, give you most humble and hearty thanks
for all your goodness and loving kindness.
We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful,
and that we show forth your praise,
not only with our lips but in our lives,
by giving up ourselves to your service,
and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.**

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 among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**