

PARISH OF LATHERON

ORDER OF SERVICE – 11th APRIL 2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Hymn 416

1. 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.
2. Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching ev'ry place and time.
3. In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.
4. Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and ev'ry age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING: John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹ 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.' ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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.'

²⁶ 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.' ²⁷Then 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.' ²⁸Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But 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.

HYMN : Alleluia, Alleluia

*Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation. *Refrain.*

Spread the good news o'er all the earth.
Jesus has died and has risen. *Refrain.*

We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live forever. *Refrain.*

God has proclaimed the just reward:
Life for all men, alleluia! *Refrain.*

Come, let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Saviour. *Refrain.*

Reflective Reading: Thomas's story

It was different for me; maybe it had to be. All of my life it had been the same, the same as my twin brother – the same clothes, the same first day at school – at the synagogue, the same birthday – often the same presents. Even the same name, if people got us mixed up.

Jesus was the first person who really treated me as an individual. He knew what was important to me. He knew what made me, me. So maybe, on reflection, Jesus had his reasons to meet with the other disciples when I wasn't there.

It was a strange week for me.

Everyone was talking about angels and ghosts, about stolen bodies, about journeys and broken bread.

I didn't know what to believe. I needed to see Jesus for myself – and a week later I did.

He stood in front of me naming me – Thomas
– inviting me to touch him, to make sure for
myself that he was flesh and blood.
It was different for me –
but maybe it's different for everyone.
Jesus names each one of us,
and invites us into his risen life.
Ruth Burgess

HYMN: BREATHE ON ME BREATH OF GOD

5. Breathe on me, Breath of God;
fill me with life anew,
that I may love the way you love,
and do what you would do.
6. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with you I will one will,
to do and to endure.
7. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly Thine
until this earthly part of me
glows with Thy fire divine.
8. Breathe on me, Breath of God;
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
of your eternity.

REFLECTION

HYMN: COME AND FIND THE QUIET CENTRE

1. Come and find the quiet centre
In the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter,
Find the place where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter,
Clear our eyes, that we can see
All the things that really matter,
Be at peace, and simply be.
2. Silence is a friend who claims us,
Cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
Knows our being, touches base,
Making space within our thinking,
Lifting shades to show the sun,
Raising courage when we're shrinking,
Finding scope for faith begun.
3. In the Spirit let us travel,
Open to each other's pain,
Let our loves and fears unravel,
Celebrate the space we gain:
There's a place for deepest dreaming,
There's a time for heart to care,
In the Spirit's lively scheming
There is always room to spare!

PRAYER

HYMN: THE SAVIOUR DIED BUT ROSE AGAIN

1. The Saviour died, but rose again
triumphant from the grave;
and pleads our cause at God's right hand,
omnipotent to save.
2. Who then can e'er divide us more
from Jesus and his love,
or break the sacred chain that binds
the earth to heaven above?
3. Let troubles rise, and terrors frown,
and days of darkness fall;
through him all dangers we'll defy,
and more than conquer all.
4. Nor death nor life, nor earth nor hell,
nor time's destroying sway,
can e'er efface us from his heart,
or make his love decay.
5. Each future period that will bless,
as it has blessed the past:
he loved us from the first of time,
he loves us to the last.

BENEDICTION