**Easter Sunday 16 April 2017**

*The church is fitted with a hearing loop which covers the body of the church.*

*Hearing aid wearers are advised to switch their aid to T-setting*

COMMUNION SETTING “Spatzenmesse” (“Sparrow Mass”) W.A.Mozart 1756-1791

**THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

ORGAN PRELUDE

*The people stand for the entrance of the Bible.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!** (Christ Candle is lit)

Today we celebrate new life, new joy, new possibilities. We look with trembling hope into the face of a love which is beyond understanding.

**We will see the glory of God!**

All the earth may resound with joy, for God has overcome all which would threaten life. Christ has entered every dark place and is now present amongst us, surrounded by the light of true life. This life will never be defeated by the betrayals or violence of humankind.

**For love is stronger than death and Christ is the source of our salvation.**

Come, Holy Spirit of Christ, come. Be found alive among us here, arising in our hearts with all your gifts and inviting us to believe in a new day.

**Come, Holy Spirit, come. Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 147 Jesus Christ is risen today

WELCOME

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

On this Easter morning we welcome you, Risen One, into our lives and offer our praise for your life that cannot be quenched. We welcome your resurrection for it is life changing, life giving and life sustaining. We welcome the hope it brings to our world. We welcome the joy it brings to our darkness. We welcome the empty tomb for we know that it means you are on the loose in our world. We welcome you amongst us, and pray we may become more receptive to the incredible promise of new life: life to challenge all that is deathly in our world, life to challenge all that is dull in our hearts.

**We open ourselves to worship. Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION  
Today we hear that death is defeated

and a new world has begun

We do not know how to respond.

We do not know how to trust

that new life is ours.

Therefore we confess that we have not risen

into this new day sure that we are renewed;

sure that each day is a new world

opened to us through love.

We have not lived the great joy

of our forgiven and renewed

hearts and minds.

We have not danced for joy in the morning

nor sat speechless with gratitude in the evenings.

We have missed the earth-shaking,

earth-sustaining, earth-renewing

burst of love that comes to us

in the story of resurrection.

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy**.

KYRIE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE  
All the prophets testify that God’s love is forever  
and that everyone who puts their trust in Jesus  
knows forgiveness and renewal.   
Therefore, we are forgiven and renewed.

**Thanks be to God.** **Amen**

GLORIA

*The children will leave for their special activities in the Lounge.*

*All are welcome.*

**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Eternal God, your Word creates all things

and your Spirit renews the earth.

**We listen for your Word**

**and attend to your Spirit.** **Amen**

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

1O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious  
his mercy endureth for ever.  
2Israel now confess, that he is gracious  
that his mercy endureth for ever.  
14Lord is my strength, and my songis become my salvation.  
15voice of joy and health is in the dwellings of the righteous  
right hand of the Lord bringeth mighty things to pass.  
16right hand of the Lord hath the pre-eminence  
right hand of the Lord bringeth mighty things to pass.  
17shall not die, but livedeclare the works of the Lord.  
18Lord hath chastened and corrected me  
he hath not given me over unto death.  
19me the gates of righteousness  
I may go into them, and give thanks unto the Lord.  
20is the gate of the Lordrighteous shall enter into it.  
21will thank thee, for thou hast heard meand art become my salvation.  
22same stone which the builders refused

is become the head-stone in the corner.  
23is the Lord’s doingit is marvellous in our eyes.  
24is the day which the Lord hath madewe will rejoice

and be glad in it.

*Please stand and sing the concluding Gloria*

**Glory be to the Father, and / to the / Son:**

**and / to the / Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and / ever /shall be**

**world without / end. / A / men**

*Please stand for the gospel*

A reading from the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord**

GOSPEL READING Matthew 28: 1-10

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

HYMN 157 The day of resurrection!

Sermon

**THE RESPONSE TO GOD IN WORD AND ACTION**

CREDO

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving Jesus, because we believe that you know every part of our life, we have confidence to come to you with our prayers both for ourselves and others.

We pray for those whose lives are so tough that they cannot imagine a God who would understand their struggles. We bring them before you in silence. (A silence is kept)

Lord in your mercy; **Lord hear our prayer**

We pray for those who have been given a God who is linked tightly with prosperity, or people who have been taught that their troubles are connected with their sin or lack of faith, people who no longer dare to approach you because they fear your judgment.

We bring them before you in silence. (A silence is kept)

Lord in your mercy; **Lord hear our prayer**

Where there is loneliness and anxiety today, we pray that you will be present as friend and comforter and give us faithfulness in joining you there.

Where there is hunger and poverty in our world, inspire in us a new justice which matches your love.

Where there is fear and violence or warfare, move us towards reconciliation and gentleness.

Where there is illness and pain, may we see more clearly those who suffer and hold them close.

Where there is rejection and hate, or abuse and harassment, we pray that you will be found among those who are on the edge of life, and that we will know where we must be if we are to love others as you have loved us.

We bring them before you in silence. (A silence is kept)

Lord in your mercy; **Lord, hear our prayer**

Gather our own lack of faith, Lord Jesus.

Gather our doubts and confusion in the face of human realities,

and break open the truth before us in ways which lift our lives and hearts this day.

Lift up among us those who live out your prophetic life with courage and truth, O God,

that all the world may see and believe that you are with us.

This we pray, all in the name of Jesus Christ, our living Lord and Saviuor. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(printed inside cover of hymn book)*

HYMN 143 Come, ye faithful, raise the strain

# *During the singing of this hymn our offering will be received.*

# *Remain standing for the dedication prayer.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, in the offering of our gifts and of our lives;

**we remember the abundance of love and hope that is ours to share.**

**May these gifts be as new life to any in need. Amen**

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

THE INVITATION

Through light and the word,

through bread and wine,

we recall Christ’s death and resurrection,

we share Christ’s triumph over sin and death,

and with invincible hope

we renew our faith in Christ’s presence

at this table and in our lives.

Come, for all are welcome.

THE INSTITUTION

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us open our hearts.

**We open them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you all thanks and praise, O God,  
for your love is forever.

You made your grace known to Israel in the wilderness,  
and through your prophets you pledged   
your everlasting love and constant faithfulness.  
You anointed your child, Jesus,   
with the Holy Spirit and power,  
and he went about offering fullness of life

to broken ones along the path.   
But he was put to death, hung on a tree.  
But you raised him to new life.   
Witnesses tell of his restored presence:

two women rush to tell the story

of life that conquers death,

of hope that rises out of despair,

of joy that comes in the morning.

Therefore, with our hearts open wide,  
we sing praises for life, hope and joy:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

THE CONSECRATION

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that this meal may be a communion in the ongoing and everlasting life and love of Christ. **Amen.**

**THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

**AGNUS DEI**

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please come forward in double*

*file down the centre aisle to receive the elements, and return by the side aisles. If you are unable to come forward for communion, please indicate to the ushers who will arrange for communion to be brought to you. There is wine in the chalice and grape juice in the glasses. Please place empty glasses in the baskets.*

COMMUNION MOTET Ave verum corpus W.A. Mozart

Hail the body born of the Virgin Mary:

Thou who truly hangedst weary on the cross,

thou didst suffer for man.

Thou whose side was pierced,

whence the water and blood did flow;

Feed us with thy body broken,

now and in death’s agony.

O loving Jesus,

O merciful Jesus.

O Holy Son of Mary.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, Loving God, for restoring us to new life at this table. We arise from here to be your love for the world. **Amen**

**THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

HYMN 160 Thine be the glory

WORDS OF MISSION AND BENEDICTION

You carry a great

and wonderful secret,

one that shapes your life

and the essence of who you are.

You are a people who

know that deathliness

is not an end.

There is yet more life.

May God surround you with everlasting love.  
May Christ Jesus raise new life in you.  
And may the Holy Spirit anoint you with power to do good.

***You are invited to be seated for the playing of the postlude,***

***or to leave at this point without disturbing those who wish to listen.***

POSTLUDE Toccata from Symphony V C-M Widor 1844-1937

*Please stand as the Bible is taken from the church*

Presiding Ministers Rev Bob Hutchinson

Rev Sandy Boyce

Organist & Choir Director Peter Kelsall

Conductor Kim Worley

The Choir of Pilgrim Church

**Soloists:**

Soprano Phoebe Paine

Alto Charlie Kelso

Tenor Andrew Turner

Bass James Scott

**Musicians:**

Violin Emily Tulloch

Julia Brittain

Asha Stephenson

Violin & Viola Anna Webb

Cello Catherine Finnis

Double Bass Harley Gray

Trumpet Robin Finlay

Isaac White

Trombone David Winnal

Gareth Davis

Timpani Jack De la Lande

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***Please join us for tea or coffee and fellowship in the Lounge***

***after the service.***