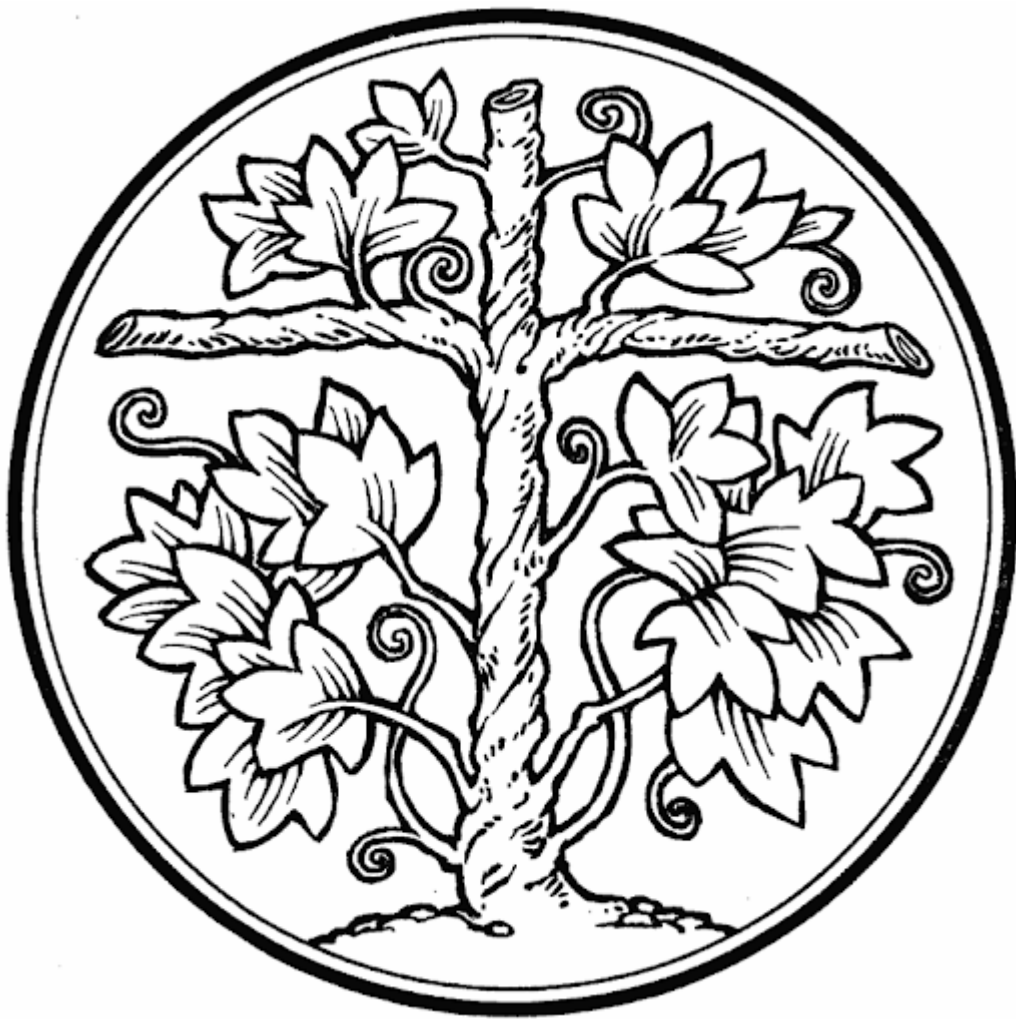


Douglas Union with Frankfield

Sunday 2 May 2021

(The 5th Sunday of Easter)



A SERVICE OF THE WORD

The Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

On the first Easter Day you raised your Son, triumphant over sin, death and evil. He showed himself alive to his friends and before ascending to your side commissioned them to proclaim the Gospel to all the world, and to make disciples, baptising them in your holy name.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, overflowing in love.

HYMN 288 *Thine be the glory (verse 3 & chorus)*

Penitence

In a moment of quiet reflection, let us honestly examine our lives, remembering where our attitudes have been wrong, where love has grown cold, where hurts have not been forgiven, or where cries for help have not been answered ...

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

**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.**

May Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN 252 *Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord! (verses 2 & 5)*

Silent Reflection & Collect

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.**

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

Psalms 22:25-31

- 25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those that fear you.
- 26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the Lord shall praise him;
their hearts shall live for ever.
- 27 All the ends of the earth
shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 28 For the kingdom is the Lord's
and he rules over the nations.
- 29 How can those who sleep in the earth bow down in worship,
or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?
- 30 He has saved my life for himself;
my descendants shall serve him;
this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.
- 31 They shall come and make known his salvation,

to a people yet unborn,
declaring that he, the Lord, has done it.

The First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards 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.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Canticle - THE EASTER ANTHEMS

1 Corinthians 5: 7,8 Romans 6: 9-11 1 Corinthians 15: 20-22

- 1 Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us,
therefore let us celebrate the feast,
- 2 Not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness,
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
- 3 Christ, once raised from the dead dies no more;
death has no more dominion over him.
- 4 In dying, he died to sin once for all;
in living, he lives to God.
- 5 See yourselves therefore as dead to sin;
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 6 Christ has been raised from the dead:
the firstfruits of those who sleep.
- 7 For as by man came death,
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
- 8 For as in Adam all die,
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
Glory ...

The Second Reading

John 15:1-8

‘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 word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Sermon

HYMN 616 *In my life, Lord, be glorified*

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again,
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessions

Sovereign Lord, we bring to you our needs and the needs of the world.
We pray for all who seek to follow you: may we abide in you so that
your kingdom may grow and be fruitful. Bless Paul our Bishop, Adrian
our rector, our neighbours in St Anne's Shandon, Rev Paul Robinson
their rector and chaplain of St Luke's Home. We remember in
fellowship the Diocese of Meath and Kildare and the Episcopal church
in Jerusalem and the Middle East. Bless the church in Zambia, the

students and graduates of St John's College and Rev Keith Scott as he maintains our Irish links with them.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign Lord, we pray for your world. Strengthen and inspire all who are working so hard for the containment of Covid 19. We especially pray for those in India where the needs are overwhelming and we remember Indian people resident here, far from their loved ones, including Indian Orthodox Christians who worship in St Michael's Blackrock. We remember also those who are victims of war or natural disasters and all who endeavour to bring humanitarian aid. We pray for all young people and their particular needs.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign Lord, we continue to uphold all who are sick, or sorrowful, bereaved or struggling with their own life challenges, remembering especially those known to us.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign Lord, thank you for all the good things in our lives: family, friends, the good earth and the hope of heaven. We entrust ourselves, each other, and all whom we love now departed from us into your loving care.

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

The Lord's Prayer

HYMN 321 *Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty*

Prayer in preparation for Reopening Church Buildings

Creator God,
not limited by time or space;
your Son worshipped in synagogue and Temple,
and your Spirit came in power on the disciples as they met in the Upper Room.

By that same Spirit,
guide us as we prepare to reopen the churches in this parish and
diocese.
May they be places of safety,
where all feel your welcome, experience your love and are equipped in
your service.
We pray for those who through age or vulnerability will continue to
worship at home,
that together we may all rejoice in your goodness and know your
blessing,
until we can offer unceasing praise in your heavenly kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, raise
you up to walk with him in the newness of his risen life; and the blessing
of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; be with you
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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