

# St Mary's Church, Walkley



**The Church on the Road:**  
*Inclusive, Eucharistic, a safe place to be with God*

## **Easter Reflection Service**

**30<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Welcome to St Mary's Church, Walkley**  
**Officiant: David, Reader at St Mary's**  
**Churchwarden on duty: Alexandra**

## The Introduction

*Minister* In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

*Minister* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*All* **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*Minister* Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;  
break forth, O mountains, into singing!

*We remain standing to sing hymn number 355 from the green book.*

*Minister* Dear friends in Christ, in these great fifty days of Easter we celebrate with joyful hearts the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, his bursting from the tomb and his defeat of the power of sin and death.

Jesus appeared to his disciples many times and told them about the kingdom of God. This evening's service seeks to offer space for prayer and reflection. By scripture and music, we journey through the final days of Jesus' earthly ministry, his preparation for his Ascension and coming gift of the Holy Spirit.

This Easter, may we celebrate the joy of the Risen Christ and seek to follow in his footsteps of love and service, and in doing so help prepare the world for the coming of God's Kingdom.

Let us pray.

God of glory,  
by the raising of your Son  
you have broken the chains of death and hell:  
fill your Church with faith and hope;  
for a new day has dawned  
and the way to life stands open  
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

*All* **Amen.**

*Minister* Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

*Cantor* Dying you destroyed our death

*All* **Dying you destroyed our death**

*Cantor* Rising you restored our life

*All* **Rising you restored our life**

*Cantor* Lord Jesus come  
*All* **Lord Jesus come**  
*Cantor* Lord Jesus come  
*All* **Lord Jesus come**  
*Cantor* Come again in glory  
*All* **Come again in glory**

*We sit.*

**The First Reading:** John 20. 1 - 8

*Reader* A reading from the Gospel according to John.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed.

*We keep silence.*

*Minister* We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus,  
King of glory,  
for the love which drew Mary Magdalene to your tomb  
to weep over your death.  
As you broke into her grief with your death-shattering life,  
so reach into our broken hearts with your promise of hope.  
To you, Lord Jesus,  
reaching into the deepest tombs of our despair,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.  
*All* **Amen.**

*We stand and we sing hymn number 324 from the green book.*

*We sit.*

## **The Second Reading: Luke 24. 2 - 9**

*Reader* A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.

*We keep silence.*

*Minister* We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus,  
King of glory,  
for your resurrection overturns our expectations of life  
and even your closest friends could not see truth before them.  
As the angel helped them to grasp your triumph  
and overcome their fear,  
so help us to see your hand at work  
through the events that overtake us.  
To you, Lord Jesus,  
whose ways astonish beyond our imagining,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*We remain seated as the cantor sings.*

## **The Third Reading: Luke 24. 13 - 35**

*Reader* A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad.

Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

*We keep silence.*

*Minister* We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus,  
King of glory,  
for you are with us,  
even when our eyes are closed to your companionship.  
Walk this day alongside the disconsolate and the despairing,  
open their eyes to your gentle illumination,  
and let their hearts burn within them at your invisible presence.  
To you, Lord Jesus,  
walking by our side,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*We stand and we sing:*

*Tune: Blaenwern – Love Divine*

**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!**

**Christ has risen for the people  
whom he loved and died 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  
is not silenced by the tomb.**

**Christ has risen to companion  
former friends who fear the night,  
sensing loss and limitation  
where their faith had once burned bright.  
They bemoan what is no longer,  
they expect no hopeful sign  
till Christ ends their conversation,  
breaking bread and sharing wine.**

**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  
in which God is known and seen.**

Words by John L. Bell & Graham Maule © 1988 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow,  
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*We sit.*

### **The Fourth Reading: Luke 24. 36 - 49**

*Reader* A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

*We keep silence.*

*Minister* We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus,  
King of glory,  
for in your birth you were proclaimed the Prince of Peace,  
and in your resurrection you breathe into your people  
peace beyond this world's understanding.  
Be present, Lord, this day  
with those whose lives are disfigured by conflict  
and those whose hearts know no peace.  
To you, Lord Jesus,  
true bringer of the peace of heaven,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*We stand and we sing hymn number 103 from the green book.*

*We sit.*

### **The Fifth Reading:** John 20. 21 - 29

*Reader* A reading from the Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

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

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.' Then 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.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

*We keep silence.*



*Minister* We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus,  
King of glory,  
for as you were sent by the Father, so you send us.  
Equip your Church with the gifts to fulfil our calling  
that we may love as you loved,  
serve as you served,  
and willingly follow wherever you lead.  
To you, Lord Jesus,  
gifting your people,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.  
*All* **Amen.**

*We stand and we sing hymn number 257 from the green book.*

*We sit.*

### **The Sixth Reading: John 21. 1 - 14**

*Reader* A reading from the Gospel according to John.

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.'

Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

*We keep silence.*

*Minister* We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus,  
King of glory,  
for at the lakeside you showed concern for the daily needs of your disciples.  
As you guided them to fill their nets with fish,  
so guide all who are hungry  
till their hunger is satisfied in you.  
To you, Lord Jesus,  
sharing with us the food of faith,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*We stand and we sing:*

*Tune: Truro – Jesus shall reign*

**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.**

**Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching ev'ry place and time.**

**In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,  
where colour, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.**

**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.**

Brian A. Wren, 1968, 1978  
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*We remain standing.*

## **The Conclusion**

*Minister* Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the words our Saviour taught us:

*All* **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.**

*Minister* Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:  
raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,  
that we may seek those things that are above  
where he reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*Minister* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*All* **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*Minister* Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*All* **He has given us new life and hope.  
He has raised Jesus from the dead.**

*Minister* God has claimed us as his own.

*All* **He has brought us out of darkness.  
He has made us light to the world.**

*Minister* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*All* **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*Minister* God the Father,  
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,  
strengthen us to walk with him in his risen life;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always.

*All* **Amen.**

*We remain standing as we sing and turn to face the back of church:*

*Tune: Little Cornard – Hills of the North rejoice*

**Thou art the Christ, O Lord,  
the Son of God, most high:  
for ever be adored  
that name in earth and sky,  
in which, though mortal strength may fail,  
the saints of God at last prevail.**

**O surely he was blest  
with blessedness unpriced,  
who, taught of God, confessed  
the Godhead in the Christ;  
for of thy church, Lord, thou didst own  
thy saint a true foundation-stone.**

**Thrice fallen, thrice restored,  
the bitter lesson learnt,  
that heart for thee, O Lord,  
with triple ardour burnt.  
the cross he took he laid not down  
until he grasped the martyr's crown.**

**O bright triumphant faith,  
O courage void of fears,  
O love most strong in death,  
O penitential tears!  
By these, Lord, keep us lest we fall,  
and make us go where thou shalt call.**

William Walsham How  
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## **The Dismissal Gospel: John 21. 15 - 19**

*Minister* A reading from the Gospel according to John.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

*All*

**In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.**

For more information: [stmaryswalkley.co.uk](http://stmaryswalkley.co.uk)

If you would like to provide feedback on this service please speak a member of the Worship Group, Kath, Catherine, Janet or David. You can also email us [worship@stmaryswalkley.co.uk](mailto:worship@stmaryswalkley.co.uk)

