

St Mary's Church, Walkley



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

Easter Vigil and Service of Light

19th April 2025

Welcome to St Mary's Church, Walkley

President: The Revd Alison Wragg
Churchwarden on duty: Janet

The Vigil

The Vigil light is lit. We remain seated.

President Lighten our darkness,
Lord, we pray,
and in your great mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,
for the love of your only Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

President This is the night in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life. The Church invites us, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, through word and sacrament, we share in his victory over death.

As we await the risen Christ, let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, recalling how he saved his people in ages past and, in the fullness of time, sent his Son to be our Redeemer. Let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

The Creation: Genesis 1. 1 - 2. 4a

Reader In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.'

And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

We keep silence.

Minister Let us pray that our merciful God will show compassion on all who fall victim to the power of sin.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.
Your love cannot be contained
and overflows in the wonder of creation.
You formed the universe out of nothing
and moulded us from the clay of the earth.
All you have made sings of your marvellous deeds,
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All **Amen.**

We stand to sing:

**Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.**

We sit.

Moses and the burning bush: Exodus 3. 1 - 6

Reader Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

We keep silence.

Minister Let us pray for a renewed vision for the people of God and a new commitment to break the chains of oppression.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.
You revealed yourself to your servant Moses
in the awesome wonder of the burning bush
and appointed him to lead your people
to freedom in the promised land.
By the fire of your Spirit today reveal yourself afresh
and strengthen us to free the enslaved
and break the bonds of the captive,
that they may openly sing your praise,
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All **Amen.**

We stand to sing:

**Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.**

We sit.

Crossing the Red Sea: Exodus 14. 10 - 15. 1a

Reader As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, 'Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, "Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians"? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.' But Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.'

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord:

Canticle: The Song of Moses and Miriam

All **I will sing to the Lord, who has triumphed gloriously, ♦
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.**

**The Lord is my strength and my song ♦
and has become my salvation.**

**This is my God whom I will praise, ♦
the God of my forebears whom I will exalt.**

**The Lord is a warrior, ♦
the Lord is his name.**

**Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in power: ♦
your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.**

**At the blast of your nostrils, the sea covered them; ♦
they sank as lead in the mighty waters.**

**In your unfailing love, O Lord, ♦
you lead the people whom you have redeemed.**

**And by your invincible strength ♦
you will guide them to your holy dwelling.**

**You will bring them in and plant them, O Lord, ♦
in the sanctuary which your hands have established.**

All **I will sing to the Lord, who has triumphed gloriously.**

Minister Let us pray that God will give freedom to his enslaved people.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.
You heard the agony of your people
as they cried out from their slavery,
and you gave them Moses
to lead them to a land flowing with milk and honey.
Hear the cry of the enslaved and the homeless today
and lead us through the turbulent sea of life
to our true home with you,
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All

Amen.

We stand to sing:

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.**

There is a break in the service as we move to the new fire.

The Service of Light

President Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
set us aflame with the fire of your love,
and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

The Easter Candle is marked.

President Christ yesterday and today,
the beginning and the end,
Alpha and Omega,
all time belongs to him,
and all ages;
to him be glory and power,
through every age and for ever.

All

Amen.

Incense grains are inserted into the Easter Candle.

President By his holy and glorious wounds
may Christ our Lord guard and keep us.

All **Amen.**

The Easter Candle is lit.

President May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

All **Amen.**

There is a break in the service as we move into the church.

The Easter Candle is carried into church and all the candles in church are lit from it. The minister carrying the candle sings and we respond.

Minister The light of Christ.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Once the Easter Candle is placed in its stand the cantor begins the Exsultet and we remain standing throughout joining in the response.

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
O Universe, dance around God's throne!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in glory, revealing the splendour of your
creation, radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King!
Christ has conquered! Now his life and glory fill you!
Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!
The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines upon you!
Let all God's people sing and shout for joy.



The Lord be with you.

All



R. and al-so with you.



Lift up your hearts.

All



R. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All



R. It is right to give thanks and praise.

Cantor

It is right and good that with hearts and minds and voices
we should praise you, Father almighty, the unseen God,
through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who has saved us by his death,
paid the price of Adam's sin,
and reconciled us once again to you.

All



Glo - ry to you for ev - er.

For this is the Passover feast,
when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain,
whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful.

All



Glo - ry to you for ev - er.

This is the night when you first saved our ancestors,
freeing Israel from her slavery
and leading her safely through the sea.

All



Glo - ry to you for ev - er.

This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell,
broke the chains of death
and rose triumphant from the grave.

All



Glo - ry to you for ev - er.

This is the night when all who believe in him are freed from sin,
restored to grace and holiness,
and share the victory of Christ.

All



Glo - ry to you for ev - er.

This is the night that gave us back what we had lost;
beyond our deepest dreams
you made even our sin a happy fault.

All



Glo - ry to you for ev - er.

Most blessed of all nights!
Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away,
lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy.

All



Glo - ry to you for ev - er.

Night truly blessed, when hatred is cast out,
peace and justice find a home, and heaven is joined to earth
and all creation reconciled to you.

All



Glo - ry to you for ev - er.

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy
accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering,
this wax, the work of bees and the hands of your ministers.

All



Glo - ry to you for ev - er.

As we gaze upon the splendour of this flame
fed by melting wax conceived by mother bee,
grant that this Easter Candle may make our darkness light.
For Christ the morning star has risen in glory;
Christ is risen from the dead and his flame of love still burns
within us!
Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world!
Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever!

All



A - men.

The Easter Acclamation

President Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

We remain standing to sing:

Cantor Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,

All **Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

Cantor 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.

All **Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

Cantor 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.

All **Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

Cantor 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.

All **Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

The Collect

President Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

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.**

We sit.

The Reading: Romans 6. 3 - 11

Reader A reading from the Letter to the Romans.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

We stand and we sing. During the hymn we turn to face the processional cross as the book of the Gospels moves to the middle of the people.

The Gospel Reading: Luke 24. 1 - 12

Minister Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

All **Alleluia.**

Minister Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. 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. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Minister This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Reaffirmation of Baptismal Calling

President As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism.

In baptism Jesus calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light so that we may shine as lights for Christ in the world today.

Brothers and sisters,

Will you continue to receive the light of Christ and grow into friendship with him as he comes to you in the Scriptures, in the Sacraments, in prayer, and in the fellowship of his Church?

All **With the help of God, we will.**

President Will you continue to walk in the light of Christ, seeking to follow him at home and at work, in rest and in activity?

All **With the help of God, we will.**

President Will you continue to reflect the light of Christ to those around you by serving those in need, making him known in your communities, and working for justice, peace and the good of all creation?

All **With the help of God, we will.**

President You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

All **We will shine as lights for Christ in the world to the glory of God the Father.**

President May God, who in baptism has enlightened you with his grace, continually stir up his gifts within you.

The Prayer over the Water

President Praise God who made heaven and earth,
All **who keeps his promise for ever.**

President Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ
was baptized in the river Jordan,
we thank you for the gift of water
to cleanse us and revive us.

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea
you led your people out of slavery
to freedom in the Promised Land.

We thank you that through the deep waters of death
you brought your Son,
and raised him to life in triumph.

Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it
may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection,
to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them,
bring them to new birth in the household of faith
and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life;
for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Profession of Faith

President Friends, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

President Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

President Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

All **I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 to judge the living and the dead.**

President Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

All **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.**

*We remain standing as the congregation is sprinkled with water
from the font.*

President Almighty God,
we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith
with all who have been baptized in your name.
Keep us faithful to our baptism,
and so make us ready for that day
when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

We remain standing to sing.

We sit or kneel.

The Prayers of Intercession

Intercessor In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.
That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his
glorious and life-giving resurrection
we pray to the Father.

All **Hear our prayer.**

That isolated and persecuted churches
may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter
we pray to the Father.

All **Hear our prayer.**

That God may grant us humility
to be subject to one another in Christian love
we pray to the Father.

All **Hear our prayer.**

That he may provide for those who lack food, work or shelter
we pray to the Father.

All **Hear our prayer.**

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world
we pray to the Father.

All **Hear our prayer.**

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick,
the weak and the dying,
to comfort and strengthen them
we pray to the Father.

All **Hear our prayer.**

That, according to his promises,
all who have died in the faith of the resurrection
may be raised on the last day
we pray to the Father.

All **Hear our prayer.**

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people,
so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection,
we pray to the Father.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant that, as his death has recalled us to life,
so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy;
through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

President Rejoicing in God's new creation,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

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.**

The Blessing

President Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

President 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.**

President God has claimed us as his own.

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

President Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

President 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.**

The Closing Hymn

We remain standing and we sing during which we turn to face the back of church as the robed ministers process.

The Dismissal

Minister He is not here. He is risen.
Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

For more information: 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



Holy Week Services:

Easter Day – 20th April at 10:30am

Easter Day Eucharist with Renewal of Baptismal vows.