**A SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PRAISE**

**AFTER THE FORM OF MORNING PRAYER**

Opening Hymn CP374, Alleluia! Sing to Jesus verses 1-3

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

His the sceptre, his the throne;

Alleluia! His the triumph,

His the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion

Thunder like a mighty flood;

Jesus, out of every nation

Hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia! Not as orphans

Are we left in sorrow now;

Alleluia! He is near us,

Faith believes, nor questions how.

Though the cloud from sight received him

When the forty days were o’er,

Shall our hears forget his promise,

“I am with you evermore”?

Alleluia! Bread of heaven,

Thou on earth our food, our stay;

Alleluia! Here the sinful

Flee to thee from day to day;

Intercessor, Friend of sinners,

Earth’s Redeemer, plead for me,

Where the songs of all the sinless

Sweep across the crystal sea.

**The Gathering of the Community**

*(Pastor Pam)*

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| Officiant | The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all |
| **People** | **And also with you.** |
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| Officiant | Let us pray. |
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| **Together** | **We thank you, O God, that you have again brought us together to praise you for your goodness and to ask your blessing. Give us grace to see your hand in the week that is past, and your purpose in the week to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen** |
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| Officiant | Dear friends in Christ, as we turn our hearts and minds to worship almighty God, let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments and to live in love and peace with our neighbour. |
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| **People** | **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.** |
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| Officiant | Merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. |
| **People** | **Amen.** |
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| Officiant | The Lord is our light and our life. |
| **People** | **O come, let us worship.** |

Hymn **CP 354 Come, thou Fount of every blessing**

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious measure,  
Sung by flaming tongues above;  
O the vast, the boundless treasure  
Of my God's unchanging love.

Here I make faith's affirmation:  
Thus far by thy help I've come,  
And I hope, by thy compassion,  
Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor

Daily I’m constrained to be!

Let thy goodness, like a fetter,

Bind my wandering heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,

Prone to leave the God I love;

Take my heart, O take and seal it,

Seal it for thy courts above.

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS** (Read by Philip Isaacson)

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

**ACTS 4:32-35**

**A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN** (Read by Audrey Shepherd)

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us - we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

**1 JOHN 1:1-2:2**

Hymn **CP 210 Yours be the Glory**

Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son;

Endless is the victory over death you won.

Angels robed in splendour rolled the stone away,

Kept the folded grave-clothes where your body lay

Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son;

Endless is the victory over death you won.

See! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;

Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.

Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,

For her Lord is living; death has lost its sting.

Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son;

Endless is the victory over death you won.

No more we doubt you, glorious Prince of life;

What is life without you? Aid us in our strife;

Make us more than conquerors through your deathless love;

Bring us sage through Jordan to your home above.

Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son;

Endless is the victory over death you won.

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| Deacon | The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John |
| **People** | **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ** |

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." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 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." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But 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.

**JOHN 20:19-31**

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| Deacon | The Gospel of Christ |
| **People** | **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ** |

Sermon Deacon Jacquie Bouthéon

*(Father Roy)*

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| Officiant | Let us confess our faith as we say, |
| **People** | **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**  **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**  **He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**  **He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**  **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** |

**Intercessions** Leonora Benjamin

### On this day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad as we pray to God who has raised Jesus from the dead, saying: Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.

### For the Church: remembering especially our bishops Linda, Andrew and Kevin, our priests Pam and Roy, Jacquie our deacon, and all who minister in Christ, and for all the people of God, that by our witness and love we may be signs of the Risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord. ****Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer**.**

### For this parish family that we may witness to Christ's resurrection with words and by serving the needs of others, let us pray to the Lord. ****Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.****

### For all who struggle with faith or who lack belief, that God's presence and love may be made known to them and bring light to their life's journey, let us pray to the Lord. ****Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer**.**

### For all those who live and work in places of violence and unrest, and for those who work for peace and justice, that Christ's gift of peace may settle in the hearts of all the human family, let us pray to the Lord. ****Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.****

For all those who are sick in mind, body or spirit, especially those stricken with the Coronavirus, and all who have desired our prayers …. that the Risen Christ will visit them with healing power and new hope. Lord, as this pandemic shows little sign of declining,strengthen we pray and protect all medical professionals, all who work in any capacity in our medical facilities. Bless them and keep them safe, strengthen them and guide them with your abundant goodness. Let us pray to the Lord. **Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.**

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### For those who have died, remembering especially, ........., that they may come to the inheritance kept in heaven for them, let us pray to the Lord. ****Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.****

We thank you Lord for the love of our families and friends, for those who this week will enjoy the gift of another birthday or special celebration. Let us pray to the Lord. **Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer**.

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Lifting our voices with all creation and all the saints who have borne witness to the Risen Christ, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who gives us the Easter word of peace through Jesus Christ. Hear the prayers which we offer in the hope of glory and breathe upon us with your Holy Spirit. Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen**

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| Officiant | We are the body of Christ; in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.  The peace of the Lord be always with you. |
| **People** | **And also with you.** |

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| Officiant | Let us pray. |
| **Together** | **Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all you have done for us.**  **We thank you for the splendour of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life and for the mystery of love.**  **We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.**  **We thank you for setting us tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.**  **We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.**  **Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.**  **Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen** |
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| Officiant | Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. |
| **People** | **Amen.** |
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| Officiant | **Closing Prayer**  We come to you in prayer for all the people suffering from the pandemic now raging everywhere. Be with those who are ill with the virus. Grant wisdom to the professionals. Comfort those who mourn. Give courage to those who are fearful.  In your compassion, help us all to deal with the restrictions and the worries with which we are now confronted. You are our Creator, our Healer, our Strengthener. We make our petitions, confident in your mercy. In Jesus’ name, we pray. |
| Officiant | Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us, |
| **Together** | **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.**  **Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**  **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,**  **Now and for ever. Amen.** |
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| Officiant | Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia. |
| **People** | **Thanks be to God. Alleluia.** |
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| Officiant | May the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. **AMEN** |
| **People** | **Amen.** |

Hymn **CP 532 What a friend we have in Jesus**

What a friend we have in Jesus,

All our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry

Everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit,

O what needless pain we bear,

All because we do not carry

Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?

Is there trouble anywhere”

We should never be discouraged;

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful

Who will all our sorrow share?

Jesus knows our every weakness;

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,

Cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Saviour, still our refuge,

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?

Take it to the Lord in prayer;

In his arms He’ll take and shield thee,

Thou wilt find a solace there.