

Worship Service of Morning Prayer.

Sunday 2nd May. Fifth Sunday of Easter.

**All Saints at all times and
in all seasons,
committed to being a church
of Up (worship & prayer),
In (deep community & lifelong discipleship),
and Out, (service of others & evangelism).**

The Gathering of God's People

Brief Welcome by Revd Grant. **Mention DNA.**

*Pause to be still, as I re-center my scattered
senses upon the presence of God...*

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

All and also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Opening Prayer

**All Faithful one, whose word is life:
come with saving power
to free our praise,
inspire our prayer
and shape our lives
for the kingdom of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Opening Song: Mighty to Save

Prayers of Penitence

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.

In your mercy, forgive us.

All Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.

In your mercy, forgive us.

All Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.

In your mercy, forgive us.

All Lord, hear us and help us

The minister declares God's forgiveness

May the God of love and power

Forgive you and free you from your sins.

Heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise
you to new life in Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Collect

*We pray in silence for some moments, people,
places on our hearts today...*

Almighty God,

who through your only-begotten Son

Jesus Christ

have overcome death

and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that,

as by your grace going before us

you put into our minds good desires,

so by your continual help

we may bring these good desires

to good effect in and through our lives;

through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Amen.

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

Psalm 22:22-25

I will praise you in the great assembly.

I will fulfill my vows in the presence
of those who worship you.

²⁶ The poor will eat and be satisfied.

All who seek the LORD will praise him.

Their hearts will rejoice with everlasting joy.

²⁷ The whole earth will acknowledge the LORD
and return to him.

All the families of the nations
will bow down before him.

²⁸ For royal power belongs to the LORD.

He rules all the nations.

²⁹ Let the rich of the earth feast and worship.

Bow before him, all who are mortal,
all whose lives will end as dust.

³⁰ Our children will also serve him.

Future generations will hear
about the wonders of the Lord.

³¹ His righteous acts will be told
to those not yet born.

They will hear about everything he has done.

**All Glory 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.**

Amen.

Scripture Readings

First Reading: Acts 8:26-end

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Song : Lord, have mercy

Second Reading: 1 John 4 (entire chapter)

Song: Reckless love

Gospel: John 15:1-8

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe.
Amen.**

Song: Miracles

The Prayers of the People (Angela)

Response:

Lord in your mercy
Hear our Prayer.

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

Collect Prayers

We bring to God our offerings... and our week ahead...

Faithful God,
receive all we offer you this day.
May we so live the life of Christ
that we and your Church
may be a sign of salvation
to all the nations of the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Father, help me live this coming week to the full,
being true to You, in every way.
Jesus, help me give myself away to others,
being kind to everyone I meet.
Spirit, help me to love my town,
proclaiming Christ in all I do and say. **Amen.**

Let's pray to our Father...

All Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Going out as God's People

Apologetics. We heard today, in Acts, about Phillip. In his faith sharing, he is confronted with at least one question he needs to respond to. He did not only speak to the Eunuch, he listened, he was questioned, he gave an answer.

On Saturday 8th May from 10:00 to 12:00, online, we will be starting the first of a series of three Apologetics workshops.

Our understanding of Apologetics is not '*apologizing*' for our faith, but comes from 1 Peter 3:15: "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer (*apologia*) to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,..."

As a church with OUT as one of its core values, we want to help equip you further to share your faith. Last year, in our Life Groups we followed the material 'Talking Jesus'. Over the coming months we want to offer these three Apologetics workshops.

This first workshop, led by Peter Gillies, will focus on you and how you can maintain your confidence and balance in a discussion about your faith. Here we will examine common one-line responses, common rebuttals to Christianity, and the like.

For example: Buddha said, "*Believe nothing, no matter where you read it, or who said it, no matter if I have said it, unless it agrees with your own reason and your own common sense.*" Is that good advice? What if someone quoted it at you – would I know what to do with it? Would you know how to handle it so you could continue the conversation? This is an example of what we will address in this workshop.

Workshop 2, in June or July, will focus on Why the Bible is Technically True and will help you defend it

Workshop 3, in the autumn, will focus on the most important viewpoints that non-Christians will use to attack the Bible

These workshops are for anyone – of any experience – who would like to feel more confident and robust and equipped in their faith so that they can make a better '*apologia*' for Christ. As we are running it online, this is open to members of other churches who also follow us, in these online services. **Encourage you to set aside that Saturday morning. See you there.**

Final Song: Lord's my shepherd (Psalm 23)

We end with praise each of these services...

Gloria in Excelsis (together we say)

All 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.

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.

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.

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

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.
God has claimed us as his own.
All **He has brought us out of darkness.**

He has made us light to the world.
Alleluia. Christ is risen.
All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Blessing

God, who through the resurrection
of our Lord Jesus Christ
has given us the victory,
give you joy and peace in your faith;
and the blessing of God,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen!**

More information...

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