

Reflections

Please do not feel the need to wait until the concluding music has finished before leaving.

Please leave quietly.

If you would like someone to pray privately with you, please walk round to one of the side aisles.

Please take this sheet home with you.

Please join us for our next Reflections on 3 May at 6pm

If you would like to be part of the Reflections team – please let one of us know.

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Resurrection 'ALL IS WELL'

Sunday 5 April
6pm

*A quiet contemplative service
lasting about 40 minutes*



*The Parish Church of
St Andrew and St Cuthman,
Steyning*

REFLECTIONS

Easter Day, Sunday 5 April

RESURRECTION

‘ALL IS WELL’

ENTRY MUSIC

I know that my Redeemer Liveth

From the ‘Messiah’

by G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

*Performed by Amanda Powell, soprano
with Apollo’s Fire,
the Cleveland Baroque Orchestra*

WELCOME

OPENING READING

God’s Faithfulness

The resurrection does not solve our problems about dying and death. It is not the happy ending to our life’s struggle, nor is it the big surprise that God has kept in store for us. No, the resurrection is the expression of God’s faithfulness to Jesus and to all God’s children. Through the resurrection, God has said to Jesus, “You are indeed my beloved son, and my love is everlasting,” and to us God has said, “You indeed are my beloved children, and my love is everlasting.” The resurrection is God’s way of revealing to us that nothing that belongs to God will ever go to waste. What belongs to God will never get lost — not even our mortal bodies. The resurrection doesn’t answer any of our curious questions about life after death, such as: How will it be? How will it look? But it does reveal to us that, indeed, love is stronger than death. After that revelation, we must remain silent, leave the whys, wheres, hows, and whens behind, and simply trust.

Henri Nouwen 2024

BIBLE READING

The Empty Tomb

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the

PRAYER

As the shadows of this Easter Day lengthen, we pause to rest in this moment of quiet and gratitude.

We give thanks for the gift of this day — for the food we have shared, the warmth of this gathering, and the simple beauty of the world waking up around us. Thank you for the reminder that even after the longest winter, **new life** always finds its way through the soil.

In a world often clouded by conflict and shadow, we hold space tonight for **hope**.

We pray for a renewal of spirit within ourselves and a renewal of compassion between all people. May the message of this day — that light can overcome darkness — strengthen our resolve to be people of kindness.

We carry in our hearts a deep prayer for **peace**. For those caught in the midst of war, for those who are afraid, and for those who have lost their homes: we ask for comfort and a swift end to violence.

May the leaders of nations find the courage to choose dialogue over discord, and may we all find ways to plant seeds of peace in our own communities.

As we go to our rest tonight, may we be filled with the quiet confidence that **renewal** is possible, that change is coming, and that we are never alone in our hope for a better world.

All **Amen.**

BLESSING

CLOSING MUSIC

Ex Resurrexit from B Minor Mass

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Performed by English Baroque Soloists*

MUSIC

King of Kings

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope, without light
'Til from Heaven you came running
There was mercy in your eyes
To fulfill the law and prophets
To a virgin came the word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

*Praise the Father, praise the son
Praise the spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings*

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross
For even in your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake you died

Praise the Father, praise the son...

And the morning that you rose
All of Heaven held its breath
'Til that stone was moved for good
For the lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

And the church of Christ was born
Then the spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel, shall not faint
By his blood and in his name
In his freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

Praise the Father, praise the son...

*by Brooke Ligertwood and Hillsong Worship
Performed by Genavieve Linkowski
and Anthem Worship*

Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know
where they have put him!"

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As
she wept, she bent over to look into the
tomb and saw two angels in white, seated
where Jesus' body had been, one at the head
and the other at the foot.

They asked her, "Woman, why are you
crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said,
"and I don't know where they have put him."
At this, she turned around and saw Jesus
standing there, but she did not realise that it
was Jesus.

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?
Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if
you have carried him away, tell me where you
have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in
Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means 'Teacher').
Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have
not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to
my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to
my Father and your Father, to my God and
your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with
the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she
told them that he had said these things to
her.

John 20:1-18

POEM

Easter Dawn

He blesses every love which weeps and
grieves
And now he blesses hers who stood and
wept
And would not be consoled, or leave her
love's
Last touching place, but watched as low light
crept
Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,
Or recognise the gardener standing there.
She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why,
Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of
light
That brightens as she chokes out her reply
'They took my love away, my day is night'
And then she hears her name, she hears love
say
The word that turns her night, and ours, to
day.

Malcolm Guite

READINGS AND MUSIC INTO REFLECTIVE SILENCE (As we focus on the empty cross)

Hebrews 13: 5-6 - God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you. So we can say with confidence, 'the Lord is my helper, so I will have no fear'"

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here.

John 11:25-26 - "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die".

PERIOD OF SILENT REFLECTION (10-15 minutes)

Please feel free to move to different areas of the church, if you wish, to reflect and pray.

MUSIC OUT OF REFLECTION

In Paradisum

In paradisum deducant angeli: in tuo adventu suscipiant te martyres, et perducant te in civitatem sanctam Jerusalem. Chorus angelorum te suscipiat, et cum Lazaro quondam paupere aeternam habeas requiem.

(God's holy angels lead you to paradise: may saints in their glory receive you at your journey's end, guiding your footsteps into the Holy City Jerusalem. Choirs of angels sing you to your rest: and with Lazarus raised to eternal life, may you for evermore rest in peace.)

*From 'Requiem' by Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)
Arranged and conducted by John Rutter,
Performed by the Cambridge Singers with the
City of London Sinfonia*

BIBLE READING

On the Road to Emmaus

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognising him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

"What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"

And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the scriptures to us?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognised by them when he broke the bread.

Luke 24:13-35