

**Fourth Sunday of Easter
(03.05.20)**

GREETING

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

WELCOME

APPROACH

Lord Jesus
in those days of wonder after Easter,
you called Mary and Peter by their names,
and they recognised you;
and we too draw near to hear our names
spoken in love
and to know you again.

You broke bread with your followers
on the road to Emmaus,
and in the blessing, they recognised you;
and we too come to share your blessing
and your broken life,
and to know you again.

You spoke peace to your disciples,
showed them the marks on your hands,
sent them out to bear witness to your risen life;
and we too come seeking peace,
seeking to bear witness
and to be sent out renewed.

Come among us now,
that we may recognise you
in each other,
and together know your healing and hope.
Amen.

CONFESSION

If we have fallen into despair,
Lord, forgive us.

If we have failed to hope in you,
Lord, forgive us.

If we have been fearful of death,
Lord, forgive us.

If we have forgotten the victory of Christ,
Lord, forgive us.

Silence

WORDS OF COMFORT & COMMITMENT

Lord, let us not dwell in the past,
nor worry about the future.
We cannot undo what is done,
we cannot foresee what will come.
Let us instead dwell in your peace,
love and be loved,
heal and be healed.

We give the past to you and rest in your forgiveness.

We give the future to you and rest in your love.

We live in your light, open our eyes so that we may see.

We live in your love, let your love flow through us,
to the fulfilment of your kingdom.

Amen.

COLLECT

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

READINGS

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (2:42-end)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

A reading from the Gospel of John (10:1-10)

Jesus said, 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray to the Lord,
who is our refuge and stronghold.

For the health and well-being of our nation,
for our health service and its workers,
that all who are fearful and anxious
may be at peace and free from worry.

For the isolated and housebound,
that we may be alert to their needs,
and care for them in their vulnerability.

For our homes and families,
our schools, teachers, children and young people,
that there may be glimpses of your grace in times of difficulty.

For a blessing on our local community,
that it may be a place of trust and friendship,
where all are known and cared for.

We hold before God all those who have asked for our prayers – those in need, the sick, and the dying. We remember, too, those who have died, and we pray for their loved ones.

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.

Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference

THE PEACE

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said:
'Peace be with you!'
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

Alleluia! The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught his disciples, we pray:

**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.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together:

**We believe in God the Father,
God almighty, by whose plan
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.
We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin born, the child of Mary
upon whom the Spirit came.**

Christ who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.
We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
till as judge he comes again.

We believe in God the Spirit;
in one church, below, above:
saints of God in one communion,
one in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end.

BLESSING

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
wherever He may send you.
May He guide you through the wilderness,
protect you through the storm.
May He bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders He has shown you.
May He bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors.

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

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