

Christ Church, Ipswich
Sunday 3rd May 2026
Family Worship for The Fifth Sunday of Easter
with Holy Communion

Hello, I hope you are well. For this Fifth Sunday of Easter, our readings will be 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14. There will also be an opportunity for us to share together in the Lord's Supper. Let us worship God together:

Prayer of approach

Risen Lord Jesus, we come to you, our cornerstone.
 We want to build on you, becoming living stones.
 This building we are in was made by human hands.
 If bricks could talk, they'd share many stories.
 May we be attentive to all that has gone before,
 knowing it has all helped make this into a holy place,
 somewhere for us to come face to face with you, our living God. **Amen.**

R&S 247 Thine be the glory

1 Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
 endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
 angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
 kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
 endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

2 Lo! 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 now liveth, death hath lost its sting:

3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
 life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
 make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;
 bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:

Edmund Budry (1854-1932)
 Tr. R. Birch Hoyle (1875-1939)

A prayer of adoration

Blessed God, we cannot see and know the depth of your being,
 but, for what we do see and know, we worship and adore you.
 We find in you protection, guidance and love.
 We find in you forgiveness, acceptance and repentance.
 We see in you a way of living that is right and just, loving and caring.
 We feel the spark of your Spirit in the depths of our beings and know you to be true.
 You search us and know us and are forever with us.
 Blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as you are one,
 may we be one with you and all. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

Holy God, whose perfect nature challenges and changes us, our guilt weighs heavy on our shoulders.
 It saddens us that we fail you so often when we:
 fail our families, friends and neighbours;
 fail to recognise need;
 fail to see how we can be the hand that guides, the love that enfolds, the word that strengthens.
 Forgive us that we deliberately look the other way and avoid the hard challenges you call us to.
 Forgive us, O God, for our failings, our deafness and our blindness in reaching out and offering your love.
Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

Your love is abundant, your forgiveness unimaginable, O God. May we hear your still small voice that says,
 'My child, my much-loved child, your sins are forgiven, your slate wiped clean, the weight of your guilt
 removed. Go in peace to love and serve your neighbour. **Amen.**

A prayer of praise

We praise you, O God, for your creation: for plants, for flowers and food, for animals and people, for
 sustenance and provision. We praise you for sight and sound, for touch and taste and smell and feeling; for
 emotions and inspiration; for your indwelling spirit. For all of this and so much more that makes life what it
 is, and reveals what living and loving are. We praise you for guidance; for dreams and visions that reveal
 you to us. We praise and thank you for all people – the good, the bad, and everything in between – who
 have made us the people we are, and who encourage us to be the people you want us to be. You are our
 compass, our plumb line, our map through the choices of life. To you, O God, we offer our thanks this and
 every day. **Amen.**

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

NT page 216

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³ if indeed you
 have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living
 stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices
 acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
 a cornerstone chosen and precious;
 and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

⁷ To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

'The stone that the builders rejected
 has become the very head of the corner',

⁸ and

'A stone that makes them stumble,
 and a rock that makes them fall.'

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim
 the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
 but now you are God's people;
 once you had not received mercy,
 but now you have received mercy.

R&S 566 The Church's one foundation

1 The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses
with every grace endued.

3 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.

4 Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

Samuel J. Stone (1839-1900)

Gospel Reading**John 14:1-14****NT page 101**

14 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.' ⁵Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' ⁶Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

⁸Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' ⁹Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me ¹⁴for anything, I will do it.

Reflection**A moment for personal reflection as Stephen plays the organ****Our prayers of intercession**

God of light and love
may the beauty of your peace
encircle the peoples of the earth
and fill our prayer with hope.
Let your face shine upon us and upon your world.

All: Save us in your steadfast love.

God of light and love
You have called us to live together in community
sharing what we have and carrying each other's burdens.
May we walk faithfully where you lead us
and may our actions show your love in the world.
We pray for the small and big choices that lie ahead for us this week
and ask that we would honour you in the ordinary things of life,
knowing that you are with us always.

We pray that you would surround all who are struggling or feeling alone with your presence and peace.

Let your face shine upon us and upon your world.

All: Save us in your steadfast love.

God of light and love,

we bring to you the places in our world

where the darkness of war casts its shadows over people's lives.

We pray today for Ukraine, for the Middle East, for Gaza, for South Sudan

and ask for just and lasting solutions to long-running conflict.

Give us persistence in prayer, hope in believing that peace will come

and trust in your promise that you make all things new.

Let your face shine upon us and upon your world.

All: Save us in your steadfast love.

God of light and love

you hold our lives in your hand.

We pray for all who are in trouble, pain or distress.

In the quiet we name those we know who need to know your protection today.

(Silence)

Be close to all who suffer and surround them with tender care.

May we, your Church, be a protecting space for those who are battered by life and a place of healing and hope in a troubled and divided world.

Let your face shine upon us and upon your world.

All: Save us in your steadfast love.

God of light and love,

we bring to you the change and uncertainty that is all around:

feelings of being left behind or unheard; high distrust of leaders;

disconnection from politics; and a lack of faith in those who govern us.

Save us from extremes and from too-easy answers to complex issues.

Show us how we should respond to the anger that simmers in our society.

Make us campaigners for a more just world

and may we never disregard the voices of those on the margins.

As elections approach in many areas of our nation,

we pray for leadership that is unselfish and dedicated to the good of others.

Let your face shine upon us and upon your world.

All: Save us in your steadfast love.

God of light and love may the beauty of your peace encircle us and fill our homes and our hearts today and always. Let your face shine upon us and upon your world.

All: Save us in your steadfast love. Amen

R&S 246 The day of resurrection!

1 The day of resurrection!

earth, tell it out abroad;

the passover of gladness,

the passover of God!

From death to life eternal,

from earth unto the sky,

our Christ has brought us over

with hymns of victory.

2 Our hearts be pure from evil,

that we may see aright

the Lord in rays eternal

of resurrection light;

and, listening to his accents,

may hear, so calm and plain,

his own 'All hail!' and hearing

may raise the victor strain.

3 Now let the heavens be joyful,

and earth her song begin;

the round world keep high triumph,

and all that is therein:

let all things seen and unseen

their notes of gladness blend,

for Christ the Lord is risen,

our joy that has no end.

John of Damascus, (d. c.750)

tr. J. M. Neale (1818-66) altd.

Our children and young people will return from Café Church and join us for Holy Communion

Holy Communion

Gospel Words

Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. John 6:35

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking;
if you hear my voice and open the door,
I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. Revelation 3:20

God proves his love for us in
that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30

Invitation to the Table

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may,
not because you are strong, but because you are weak.
Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come,
but because you need mercy and help.
Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more.
Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you.
Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body.

We pray together:

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Institution

The apostle Paul tells us of the institution of the Lord's Supper:
For I received from the Lord
what I also handed on to you,
that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed
took a loaf of bread,
and when he had given thanks,
he broke it and said,
'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'
In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying,
'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'
For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11.23–26

Thanksgiving

Loving God,
we praise and thank you
for your love shown to us in Jesus Christ.

We thank you for his life and ministry,
announcing the good news of your kingdom
and demonstrating its power
in the lifting of the downtrodden,
and the healing of the sick,
and the loving of the loveless.

We thank you for his sacrificial death upon the cross
for the redemption of the world,
and for your raising him to life again,
as a foretaste of the glory we shall share.

We give you thanks for this bread and wine,
symbols of our world
and signs of your transforming love.
Send your Holy Spirit, we pray,
that we may be renewed
into the likeness of Jesus Christ
and formed into his Body.
This we pray in his name and for his sake. Amen.

The Breaking of Bread

Jesus said, 'This is my body which is for you;
do this in memory of me'.

Sharing the Bread

Take this in remembrance that Christ died for you
and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

The Lifting of the Cup

In the same way,
he took the cup after supper, and said:
'This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood.
Whenever you drink it,
do this in memory of me.' 1 Corinthians 11:25

Sharing the Wine

Drink this and remember that Christ's blood was shed for you
and be thankful.

Words of Acclamation and Prayer

Your death, O Lord, we commemorate.
Your resurrection we confess.
Your final coming we await.
Glory be to you, O Christ.

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

**Father of all,
 we give you thanks and praise,
 that when we were still far off
 you met us in your Son and brought us home.
 Dying and living, he declared your love,
 gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
 May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
 we who drink his cup bring life to others;
 we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
 Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
 so we and all your children shall be free,
 and the whole earth live to praise your name;
 through Christ our Lord. Amen**

A prayer of thanks and dedication for all our giving

The Lord's Prayer,
 which will be sung today

R&S 603 Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided

1 Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
 urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
 sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
 Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

2 Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
 speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
 teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
 Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

3 Lord, for our land in this our generation,
 spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
 for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
 Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

4 Lord, for our world
 where we disown and doubt you,
 loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
 hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you:
 Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

5 Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us –
 self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
 past put behind us, for the future take us:
 Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Timothy Dudley-Smith.
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The Blessing

May God, Eternal Majesty,
 give You joy and hope in these Eastertide days.
 May God, Enfleshed Word,
 give You grace to bear witness to light and love which vanquishes evil.
 May God, Flame of Love,
 inspire You to follow despite all the difficulties you face along the way.

And may the blessing of Almighty God,
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 be with you all,
 and those you love
 now and always. Amen.

The Grace is shared with one another

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