



Welcome!

It is such a delight to be able to gather and worship together in church, to see each other and pray with one voice. But we are also delighted that people can still join together via our webcam. Together, whether physically here or online, we are united in love and connected in spirit.

Face Masks

As per government guidelines, please wear a face covering in church. Those who are leading/reading at the service may remove their face covering whilst they are leading/reading but must observe social-distancing whilst doing so.

Contact Tracing

We are obliged to get the contact details of everyone who attends this service. These will only be used in the event of someone attending the service being diagnosed with Covid-19, in which event, they will be passed to the health authorities for Contact Tracing purposes. Please complete the form which is available at the church doors and drop into the box provided. If they are not required for Contact Tracing purposes, they will be destroyed after 28 days.

Hymn Singing

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions we are not permitted to sing in church this morning. Charles Pearson, our organist, is going to play the tune of the hymns chosen for this service and I invite you to reflect upon the words which have been included in this service sheet as you listen to the music.

Greeting for the Easter Season

Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Opening Responses for Ascension-tide

We know you and we do not know you;
You are mysterious and full of joy.

You know us and understand us;
You are loving and full of truth.

You welcome us and you live in us;
You are holy and full of hope.

We look for you in each other;
We look for you in our midst.

Opening Hymn No. 266 (Llanfair)

[Verses 1-2]

1. Hail the day that sees him arise,
alleluia!
to his throne above the skies; ***alleluia!***
Christ the Lamb for sinners given,
alleluia!
enters now the highest heaven,
Alleluia!

2. There for him high triumph waits;
alleluia!
 lift your heads, eternal gates! *alleluia!*
 He has conquered death and sin;
alleluia!
 take the King of glory in! *Alleluia!*

(Please stand)

Collect for Purity

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 Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.

The Penitence

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:
 You shall love the Lord your God with
 all your heart and with all your soul
 and with all your mind.
 This is the first and great
 commandment.
 And the second is like it.
 You shall love your neighbour as
 yourself.
 On these two commandments depend
 all the law and the prophets.

Lord, have mercy on us, and write
these laws in our hearts.

God so loved the world that he gave
 his only Son Jesus Christ, to save us
 from our sins, to intercede for us in
 heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

(Please sit or kneel)

[Silence]

The Penitential Kyries for Ascension

God our Father,
 you exalted your Son to sit at your
 right hand.
 Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Lord Jesus,
 you are the way, the truth and the
 life.
 Christ, have mercy
Christ, have mercy

Holy Spirit, Counsellor,
 you are sent to be with us for ever.
 Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Almighty God,
 who forgives all who truly repent,
 have mercy on you,
 pardon and deliver you from all your
 sins,
 confirm and strengthen you in all
 goodness,
 and keep you in eternal life;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Gloria - Hymn No. 355 (Holy is the Lord)

Verse 4 only

Glory, glory, glory to the Lord;
glory to the Lord God almighty!
Glory, glory, glory to the Lord;
glory to the Lord God almighty!
who was, and is, and is to come:
Glory, glory, glory to the Lord!

The Collect of the Seventh Sunday of Easter - the Sunday after Ascension Day

O God the King of Glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
mercifully give us faith to know
that, as he promised,
he abides with us on earth to the end
of time;
who is alive and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**



THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The First Reading - Acts 1: 1-11

¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he

was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Here ends the First Reading.

The Gradual Hymn - Blessed is the Man - Psalm 1 *[Verses 1 and 2]*

Blessed is the man, the man who does not walk
in the counsel of the ungodly -
blessed is that man.

He who rejects the way, rejects the way of sin
and who turns away from scoffing -
blessed is that man.

But his delight - by day and night -
is the law of God Almighty.

He is like a tree - a tree that flourishes
being planted by the water - blessed
is that man.

He will bring forth fruit - his leaf will
wither not -

for in all he does he prospers -
blessed is that man.

For his delight - by day and night -
is the law of God Almighty.

(Please stand)

The Holy Gospel - Luke 24: 44-53

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Luke, chapter 24, beginning at verse 44.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

44 Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(Please sit)

Blessed is the Man - Psalm 1

[Verse 3 and rephrase]

The ungodly are not so - for they are like the chaff which the wind blows clean away - the ungodly are not so.

The ungodly will not stand - upon the judgement day nor belong to God's own people - the ungodly will not stand.

But God knows the way of righteous men

and ungodly ways will perish.

Blessed is the man, the man who does not walk

in the counsel of the ungodly - blessed is that man.

The Sermon

(Please stand)

The Nicene Creed (shortened version)

***We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord,
Jesus Christ, the only Son of God.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life.
Amen.***

(Please kneel or sit)

Intercessions

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done.

Give to us, O God,
**a vision of your kingdom,
a glimpse of your glory,
an openness to your rule,
and your Spirit to guide us.
Hear us, we pray, through Christ,
the risen and ascended one. Amen.**

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions we are not permitted to share a sign of peace in the way that we usually would... maybe a smile or a wave would be good!

(Please stand)

The Peace

The Introduction to the Peace for Ascension

Jesus said, Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

John 14: 27,28

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.



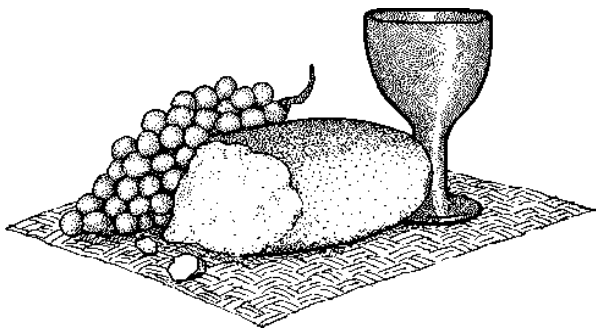
Due to the Covid-19 restrictions we will be having a retiring collection; there are baskets at the doors of the church in which you may place your collection or envelope. You may wish to donate to the church online or electronically and the treasurers would be happy to give you the required details.

Offertory Hymn No. 266 (Llanfair)

[Verses 6 and 7]

Lord, though parted from our sight,
alleluia!
far above the starry height, alleluia!
grant our hearts may thither rise,
alleluia!
following thee beyond the skies.
Alleluia!

There we shall with thee remain,
alleluia!
partners of thine endless reign;
alleluia!
there thy face unclouded see, alleluia!
find our heaven of heavens in thee.
Alleluia!



THE MINISTRY OF THE SACRAMENT

using a form of consecration written specially for Ascension-tide, by David Hamflett, in 'Fire and Bread'.

The Taking of the Bread and Wine

Look, here is bread!

Look, here is wine!

Let us celebrate the feast of God!

The Great Thanksgiving - Ascension-tide

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

To you...

Creator God, who spoke the universe into being through your Word,
who formed us in your own image,
who called us by name,
to you we lift our hearts
and give our thanks and praise.

To you...

Redeeming God, who was born as one of us in Jesus,
who told stories, restored the lost and broken, and broke barriers,
who died and rose for us, and lives and reigns for ever,
to you we lift our hearts,
and give our thanks and praise.

To you...

Sustaining God, who is ever-present with us through the Holy Spirit,

who calls us, leads us, inspires and
upholds us,
who brings us into a fellowship beyond
earthly ties,
to you we lift our hearts,
and give our thanks and praise.

And now we join our voices with those
of your people of every time and place
as we praise you with the song of
heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your
glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Before he parted from his friends,
Jesus prepared a last supper to share
with them.

He took some bread, and gave thanks
for it.

Then he broke it and gave it to them.
Take, eat, this is my body which is
given for you; do this in remembrance
of me.

**Lord Jesus we bless you:
you are the bread of life.**

When supper was all but over,
he took a cup of wine,
gave thanks for it and gave it to them
to drink.

This cup is the new relationship with
God,

sealed with my blood, the blood of the
new covenant,

Take and drink from it. It is for all.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in
remembrance of me.

**Lord Jesus, we bless you:
you are the true vine.**

Ascension Christ,
in the breaking of the bread and the
pouring of the wine,
come to us.

As we do now what you once did on
earth,
be present with us.

Breathe your Spirit upon this bread
and wine.

**May they become our spiritual food
and drink.**

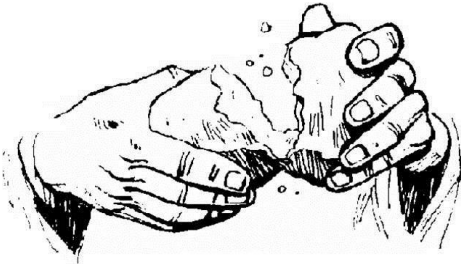
Breathe your Spirit upon us.

**May we be your body, revealing
your presence in the world. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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.*



Breaking of the Bread

*Jesus' disciples recognised him in the
breaking of the bread:
may we recognise him in our midst
and in each other.*

The Invitation

*Due to COVID-19 restrictions and in the
interests of having as little movement of the
congregation as possible, please remain in
your seat to receive Holy Communion.
Everyone is very welcome to receive Holy
Communion.*

The Communion



The Great Silence

*You are invited to take some time to reflect,
having received Holy Communion.*

The Post-Communion Prayer

*Eternal Giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us
into all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom.
Confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news
we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen*

The Blessing for Ascension

*Christ our exalted King
pour on you his abundant gifts
make you faithful and strong to do his
will
that you may reign with him in glory:
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy
Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you
always. Amen.*

The Dismissal

*We go in hope, wonder and joy,
to live the good news.*

*We go in the name of Jesus
in the Spirit's wisdom and in the
friendship of God. Amen.*

We go in the peace of the Risen and
ascended Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hymn No. 263 (Diademata)

[Verses 1, 3, 4, 6]

1. Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne,
hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own:
awake, my soul and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as they matchless King
through all eternity.

3. Crown him the Lord of love,
behold his hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified:
an angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his wondering
eye
at mysteries so bright.

4. Crown him the Lord of life
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife,
for those he came to save:
his glories now we sing,
who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

6. Crown him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime:

all hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

via Zoom

Tuesday afternoon—3.30pm—4.10pm

Contact Irene on 087-2755423

irene.reid1052@gmail.com

*The sense of peace and calm is
wonderful.*

Wednesday 19th May 2021

St Thomas' Church at 10.30

***Midweek Holy Communion
Service***



*Bring your own mug for a cuppa
afterwards!*

Services on Sunday 23rd May 2021

8.30 Holy Communion in
St Thomas' Church – *Please*
book by 18.00 on Saturday.



Blessing of the Animals

10.30 United Family
Service (*outdoors*)

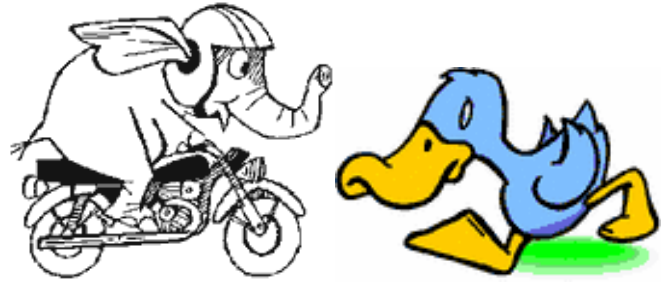
St Philip and St James'
Church

Weather-permitting, this service
will be held outdoors!

All are very welcome to this
Service with their animals.

We ask you to keep your animals
under control as we do not want
any unplanned eating episodes!!!!

*Pooper-scooper rules apply!!!
Please clean up after your animal.*



MOUNT MERRION
SELECT VESTRY MEETING
WEDNESDAY 19TH MAY
2021
19.00-20.15 HOURS
VIA ZOOM

BOOTERSTOWN AND
CARYSFORT
SELECT VESTRY MEETING
THURSDAY 20TH MAY 2021
20.00 HOURS
VIA ZOOM