



### The Gathering of God's People

Christ is risen!

***The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!***

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

*1 Peter 1:3*

### Opening Responses

Come and hear

***the good news of God.***

Come and see

***what Jesus has done.***

We will tell the story of God in our world;

***We will share the secret of hope in our lives.***

Come and explore the truth of the gospel;

***Come and receive the Holy Spirit of God.***

### Opening Hymn No. 266 (Llanfair)

*[Verses 1-3]*

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!*

3. See! The heaven its Lord receives,  
*alleluia!*  
yet he loves the earth he leaves;  
*alleluia!*  
though returning to his throne,  
*alleluia!*  
still he calls the world his own.  
*Alleluia!*

### The Preface

Beloved in Christ,

we come together to offer to Almighty God

our worship and praise and thanksgiving,

to confess our sins and to receive God's forgiveness,

to hear his holy word proclaimed,

to bring before him our needs and the needs of the world,

and to pray that in the power of his

Spirit  
we may serve him and know the  
greatness of his love.

Let us confess our sins to God our  
Father.

*[Please kneel or sit]*

**Heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you and  
against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through  
weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault;  
by what we have done and by what  
we have failed to do.  
We are truly sorry and repent of  
all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus  
Christ who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may serve you in  
newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

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.**

*[Please stand, if you are able]*

O Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouth shall proclaim your  
praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
**as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be forever. Amen.**

Praise the Lord.  
**The Lord's name be praised.**

*[Please sit]*

### **The First Reading - Acts 17: 22-31**

*The first reading is from the Acts of the Apostles,  
chapter 17, beginning at verse 22.*

22 Then Paul stood in front of the  
Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see  
how extremely religious you are in  
every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through  
the city and looked carefully at the  
objects of your worship, I found  
among them an altar with the  
inscription, "To an unknown god."  
What therefore you worship as  
unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The  
God who made the world and  
everything in it, he who is Lord of  
heaven and earth, does not live in  
shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is  
he served by human hands, as though  
he needed anything, since he himself  
gives to all mortals life and breath  
and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he

made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,<sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him— though indeed he is not far from each one of us.<sup>28</sup> For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”<sup>29</sup> Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.<sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,<sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

Here ends the First Reading.

**Psalm: Hymn No. 432 (Cresswell)**

*[Verses 1-3 and chorus]*

Love is his word, love is his way,  
feasting with friends, fasting alone,  
living and dying, rising again,  
love, only love is his way:

*Richer than gold is the love of my  
Lord,  
better than splendour and wealth.*

Love is his way, love is his mark,  
sharing his last Passover feast.  
Christ at this table, host to the  
twelve,

love, only love is his mark:

Love is his mark, love is his sign,  
bread for our strength, wine for our  
joy,

‘This is my body, this is my blood’ -  
love, only love, is his sign:

*[Please sit]*

**The Second Reading - John 14: 15-21**

*The second reading is from Gospel according to John, chapter 14, beginning at verse 15.*

15 ‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments.<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever.<sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

18 ‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.<sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.<sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.<sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I

will love them and reveal myself to them.'

22 At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup>and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup>So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' <sup>25</sup>Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; <sup>26</sup>but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup>The Father and I are one.'

Here ends the Second Reading.

**Canticle: Hymn No. 432 (Cresswell)**

*[Verses 4-5 and chorus]*

Love is his sign, love is his news,  
'Do this, he said, 'lest you forget  
all my deep sorrow, all my dear blood'

-  
love, only love, is his news:

*Richer than gold is the love of my  
Lord,  
better than splendour and wealth.*

Love is his news, love is his name,  
we are his own, chosen and called,  
sisters and brothers, parents and kin,  
love, only love, is his name:

*[Please stand, if you are able]*

**The Apostles' Creed**

***I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy  
Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of  
the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the  
living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

**The Prayers of the People**

***The Lord be with you  
and also with you.***

*[Please sit or kneel]*

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy.

***Christ, have mercy.***

Lord, have mercy.

### The Lord's Prayer

### The Versicles and Responses

Show us your mercy, O Lord,  
***and grant us your salvation.***

O Lord, guide and defend our rulers  
***and grant our government wisdom.***

Let your ministers be clothed with  
righteousness  
***and let your servants shout for joy.***

O Lord, save your people  
***and bless those whom you have  
chosen.***

Give peace in our time, O Lord,  
***and let your glory be over all the  
earth.***

O God, make clean our hearts within  
us  
***and renew us by your Holy Spirit.***

### The Collect for 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

God our redeemer,  
you have delivered us from the power  
of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of  
your Son:

Grant, that as by his death he has  
recalled us to life,  
so by his continual presence in us he  
may raise us to eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
***Amen.***

### Collect for use at Morning Prayer

***Go before us, Lord in all our doings,  
with your most gracious favour,  
and further us with your continual  
help;  
that in all our works begun,  
continued and ended in you,  
we may glorify your holy name, and  
finally by your mercy attain  
everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.***



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### The Prayers

### Hymn No. 432 (Cresswell)

*[Verses 6-7 and chorus]*

Love is his name, love is his law,  
hear his command, all who are his:

'Love one another, I have loved you' -  
love, only love, is his law:

*Richer than gold is the love of my  
Lord,  
better than splendour and wealth.*

Love is his law, love is his word:  
love of the Lord, Father and Word,  
love of the Spirit, God, ever one,  
love, only love, is his word:

## **The Sermon**

*We have resumed taking up collections. But we do recognise that many people give online and via Standing Order, so please feel free and comfortable not to put any collection in the basket. If you wish to donate to the church online or electronically, the treasurers would be happy to give you the required details.*

## **Hymn No. 266 (Llanfair)**

*[Verses 4-7]*

4. See! He lifts his hands above;  
*alleluia!*  
see, he shows the prints of love;  
*allelia!*  
hark, his gracious lips bestow *alleluia!*  
blessings on his Church below! *Alleluia!*

5. Still for us he intercedes, *alleluia!*  
his prevailing death he pleads; *alleluia!*  
near himself prepares our place,  
*alleluia!*  
first-fruits of the human race.  
*Alleluia!*

6. 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!*

7. 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 Blessing for Easter**

God the Father,  
by whose glory Christ was raised from  
the dead, raise you up to walk with  
him in the newness of his risen life:  
and the Blessing . . .

## **The Dismissal**

We are loved, cherished, befriended,  
accepted.

We are not alone: God's love is in us.  
He knows our hopes, our fears, our  
questions.

***This is the truth.***

God is leading us deep into justice and  
wonder.

***God is joyfully walking us home.***

Go in the peace of the Risen Christ.  
*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

***Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!***

*May the glory of the Resurrection  
fill you with joy and hope this  
Easter-time.*

*In the interests of trying to keep all who  
come to our churches safe, please take  
away this service sheet and any other items  
that you may have brought with you or  
used in church this morning. Thank you.*

*Stay well and stay safe.*

## **Flower Fund**

Both churches have a flower fund which is used to pay for the flowers throughout the year. Donations to the respective flower funds would be very much appreciated. Sometimes, people may donate the flowers for a particular Sunday in memory of a loved one.

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

### **Tonight!!!**

18.30 Sausage Service in St Philip and St James' Church



**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

***10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church***

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

**9.30 NB Time** Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

***10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church***

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

**10.30 NB Time** United Service with the Blessing of the Animals in St Philip and St James' Church



**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023**

***10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church***



Our Sunday Clubs will be taking a break over the summer months and will resume again in September but both Sunday Clubs will have prize-giving over the coming weeks:

**St Philip and St James' Sunday Prize-giving at the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday 29th May 2023**

and

**St Thomas' Sunday Club Prize-giving at Morning Prayer on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023.**

## ***Sponsor a Chair*** ***for*** ***St Philip and St James' Church***

If you would like more information about donating or sponsoring a chair, please contact the Honorary Treasurer, Quentin Teggan at [qteggan@gmail.com](mailto:qteggan@gmail.com) or the Rector. The cost of a chair is €275 (including the brass plaque and engraving).

