

*The Benefice of St Mary the Virgin,
Higham Ferrers with St John the Baptist,
Chelveston-cum-Caldecott*

Easter Celebration



for
the Fifth Sunday
of Easter



*Welcome as we continue to meet in this new way
to celebrate the Easter season. We hear how our risen
Lord Jesus appears to his disciples and there is
excitement*

and confusion in equal measure!

*We hear too, his words to his disciples as he prepares
them for his death and resurrection and reassures them
that he will be with them always.....*

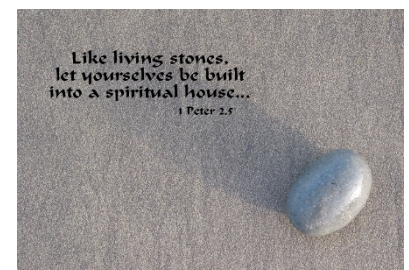
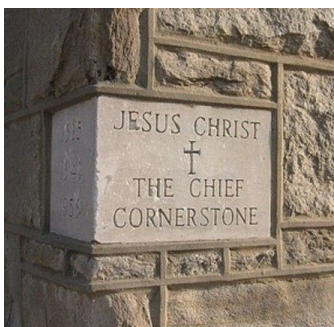
Today's service was recorded at home by members of
The Ministry Team and their families, and special thanks
to Jess Bermudez, our reader, Keith & Jo Green for the
Alleluia and Amanda, Mark, Henry & Albie Smith for the
prayers.

*Some parts of the service are taken from material from
'Clouds and Glory': Prayers for the Church Year A, by David Adam.*

You may like to have a candle and some stones
as a focus for this service,
during which we reflect on
two ways of seeing
Jesus and ourselves in
relation to him:

Christ the cornerstone and
ourselves as living stones,

a spiritual temple and the dwelling place of the Holy
Spirit, and Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life.



You may also like to have a tambourine, drum,
castanets or other instruments ready for singing the
Peruvian Gloria!

*Please join in with the prayers and hymns as we
worship together.*

The Gathering

Michelle greets us:

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

Opening Acclamation

We meet together,
even as we are apart;
This is our Life. Alleluia!

We hear wisdom
and we share hope;
This is our Truth. Alleluia!

Jesus meets us
our risen Lord among us
He is our Way. Alleluia!

We are living stones
We are the household of God

We are the temple of the Lord
Chosen and precious in his sight

Christ is our sure foundation
And our Cornerstone

We sing together:

Hymn

**Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the Head and corner-stone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one,
Holy Sion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.**

**To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of hosts, to-day;
with thy wonted loving-kindness
hear thy servants as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.**

**Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain,
what they gain from thee for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.**

**Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One,
consubstantial, co-eternal,
while unending ages run.**

Words: Latin (before 9th C) trans John Mason Neale (1818-1866),

Music: Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

Prayers of Confession – led by Brenda

Lord Jesus, you call us to follow your Way;
but we have so often turned aside
and followed our own path.

Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Lord Jesus, you reveal to us all that is Truth;
but we would rather deal in dishonesty
and live out lies.

Christ, have mercy
Christ, have mercy

Lord Jesus, you came to give us Life,
life in all its fullness;
but we have not trusted your promise to us;

Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Absolution – Michelle

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We sing together the Peruvian Gloria with joyful voices and instruments if we wish!



Gloria

Cantor: Glory to God, glory to God,
 glory to the Father.

All: **Glory to God, glory to God,**
 glory to the Father.

Refrain:

Cantor: *To God be glory for ever!*

All: ***To God be glory for ever!***

Cantor: *Alleluia, amen.*

All: ***Alleluia, amen.***

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen.

Cantor: Glory to God, glory to God,
 Son of the Father.

All: **Glory to God, glory to God,**
 Son of the Father.

Refrain

Cantor: Glory to God, glory to God,
 glory to the Spirit.

All: **Glory to God, glory to God,**
 glory to the Spirit.

Refrain

Collect – *led by Lesley*

Let us pray that we may walk the risen life of Christ in glory.

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

First Reading – 1 Peter 2.2-10 - *Read by Jess Bermudez*

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

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

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and 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. 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.'
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',
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.

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. 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.

This is the word of the Lord;

Thanks be to God

Celtic Alleluia – led by Keith & Jo – all join in singing:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

'I am the Way', says the Lord;

'Do not let your hearts be troubled'

'I will lead you in Truth

bring you to eternal Life!'

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Gospel – John 14.1-14 – read by Paul

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, O Lord

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In 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? And 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. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus 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"? Do 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. Believe 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. Very 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. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Alleluia! This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Music for Reflection – The Call

by George Herbert (1593-1633) music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a way as gives us breath;
Such a truth as ends all strife;
Such a life as killeth death.*

*Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a light as shows a feast;
Such a feast as mends in length;
Such a strength as makes his guest.*

*Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a joy as none can move;
Such a love as none can part;
Such a heart as joys in love.*

Homily – Linda

Hymn:

**Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,**

**will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?**

**Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?**

**Will you risk the hostile scare
should your life attract or scare?**

**Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?**

**Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?**

**Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?**

**Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?**

**Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?**

**Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.**

**Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.**

**In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.**

**Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.**

Words: John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b.1958)

Music: KELVINGROVE Scottish folk melody (1872-1914)

Prayers to Jesus, our Way, Truth and Life–

led by Amanda, Mark, Emily, Henry & Albie Smith

We sing

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

Lord, as you have called us to walk in your way,
make us the people that you would have us be,
guide us that we may do what you would have us do,
that we may reveal your truth, and lead others to the fullness of
life,
that we may be a chosen people, a royal priesthood,
that we may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called us out
of darkness into his marvellous light.

Lord, lead us in the ways of peace.

Guide us in the path of life.

We sing

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

We pray for all who are in positions of authority,
for all who are being called upon to make difficult decisions.
We remember those who have responsibility for leadership that

affect the life of this planet and its people.

We pray for all whose experience and expertise is needed in this current crisis.

Lord, lead us in the ways of peace.

Guide us in the path of life.

We sing

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

We praise you for all that has enriched our lives,
for eyes to see the beauty of the world and all creation,
minds to recognize new possibilities and choices that bring life,
and hearts to trust in new beginnings.

We give thanks for all who have extended our vision,
built up our community, and taught us what is real truth.

We pray for our families and friends,
for our colleagues and all whose lives we share.

Lord, lead us in the ways of peace.

Guide us in the path of life.

We sing

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

We pray for all those who are struggling,
for all those who are ill,
for all who are confused about the truth, about life,
for those who are troubled in heart or mind,
for all who have lost their way.

We pray for those who are caring for others,

for our NHS staff, key workers, and those on whose work we rely.

Lord, lead us in the ways of peace.

Guide us in the path of life.

We sing

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

Lord Jesus,
as you have gone before us
and prepared a place for us,
lead us until we come fully into your kingdom
and walk with you in that life which is eternal.
We commend into your safe keeping
all those who have died in recent times,
and those whose anniversaries we recall.

Lord, lead us in the ways of peace.

Guide us in the path of life.

We sing

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

Risen Lord, you say to us,
'Do not let your hearts be troubled,
do not let them be afraid;
Hear our prayers and reassure us with your presence.

Help us to trust in your promises and walk in your ways,
so that we may know your truth and bring life to others.
Amen.

We sing

**Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.**

We bring all our prayers together in the words that Jesus gave
us, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life:

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.**



The Peace – led by Michelle

Jesus says, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled,
neither let them be afraid;
believe in God, believe also in me.' Alleluia.

The peace of the risen Lord be always with you.

And also with you. Alleluia.

We are invited to share the Peace with those we are with, or to take a moment to think of those we love but cannot be with in the current situation, and of those with whom we are worshipping online today.

Hymn

**Christ triumphant, ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King!
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
hear us as we sing:**

***Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.***

**Word incarnate, truth revealing,
Son of Man on earth!
power and majesty concealing
by your humble birth:**

**Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,
victim crucified!**

**death is through the cross defeated,
sinners justified:**

**Priestly king, enthroned for ever
high in heaven above!
sin and death and hell shall never
stifle hymns of love:**

**So, our hearts and voices raising
through the ages long,
ceaselessly upon you gazing,
this shall be our song:**

Words: Michael Saward (1932-2015)

Music: GUITING POWER John Barnard (b.1948)

Final Prayer – led by Lesley

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

Blessing – Michelle

The Lord be with you
and also with you

God the Father,
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him
who is the Way, the Truth and the Life;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
come down upon you this day, and remain with you
always.

Amen

Acclamation

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

