

**Service for  
Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
the beginning of **Christian Aid Week**



**The Parishes of  
St Paul's Clifton and Cotham**



## **The Gathering**

*Words of welcome, introduction and invitation*

In the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Gathering Prayer:** Love never fails

Even in the darkest moments, love gives hope.

Love compels us to fight against coronavirus  
alongside our sisters and brothers living in poverty.

Love compels us to stand together in prayer  
with our neighbours near and far.

Love compels us to give and act as one.

Now, it is clear that our futures are bound together  
more tightly than ever before.

As we pray in our individual homes

– around the nation and around the world –  
we are united as one family.

So, let us pause and find a moment of peace,  
as we lift up our hearts together in prayer. **Amen.**

*Christian Aid*

## **Penitence**

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer,  
this is your world and we are your people:  
come among us and save us.

*Pause for silent reflection*

You asked for faith and trust;  
we demanded proof and certainty.

Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy**

Your love was stronger than death;  
we built tombs around our hearts.

Christ have mercy

**Christ have mercy**

You sent us into the world with a message of hope;  
we lingered in comfortable despair.

Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy**

May the God of love and mercy bring us back to himself,  
forgive us our sins,  
and embrace us in his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

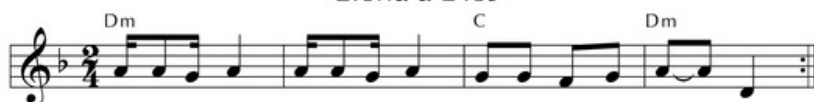
## The Gloria

SERVICE MUSIC

585

### Glory to God

*Gloria a Dios*



1 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry in the high - est!  
2 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to Christ Je - sus!  
3 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to the Spir - it!

1 ¡Glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria en los cie - los!  
2 ¡Glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria a Je - su - cris - to!  
3 ¡Glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria al Es - pí - ri - tu!



To God be glo-ry for - ev - er! Al-le-lu-ia, A - men!  
¡A Dios la glo-ria por siem - pre! ¡A - le - lu - ya, A - mén!



Al-le-lu-ia, A - men! Al-le-lu-ia, A - men!  
¡A - le - lu - ya, A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya, A - mén!

*May be sung in call and response pattern.*

TEXT: Anon.  
MUSIC: Peruvian melody

MACHU-PICHU

## The Collect

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen 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.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### First reading: Acts 7.55–60

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Second reading: 1 Peter 2.2-10

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.**

## **Hymn: Be still for the presence of the Lord**

Be still for the presence of the Lord,  
The Holy One is here  
Come bow before Him now,  
With reverence and fear  
In Him no sin is found  
We stand on holy ground  
Be still for the presence of the Lord,  
The Holy One is here

Be still for the glory of the Lord,  
Is shining all around  
He burns with holy fire,  
With splendor He is crowned  
How awesome is the sight  
Our radiant King of light  
Be still for the glory of the Lord,  
Is shining all around

Be still for the power of the Lord,  
Is moving in this place  
He comes to cleanse and heal,  
To minister His grace  
No work too hard for Him  
In faith receive from Him  
Be still for the power of the Lord  
Is moving in this place

*David J Evans*

## **Gospel Reading: John 14.1-14**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise be to you, O Christ.**

**Reflection:** Pippa White

### **Profession of faith**

We affirm our resurrection faith.

**We believe in the power of Christ to overcome all deaths,  
deaths in us and death in the world.**

**We believe in life which rises in freedom  
and carries us in joy towards grace beyond our imagining,  
calling our spirits to soar in freedom  
with wings of hope borne high in the wonder of Easter Day.  
The gift of life will never be taken from us.**

**The costly life of God will be our company for ever and for ever.**

*Dorothy McRae-McMahon 'Liturgies for High Days' / St Matthew in the City Auckland*

**The Intercessions:** Led by the Young People's group

### **Collection and Music**

Please consider making an online or postal donation to Christian Aid:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

and if possible share the e-envelope with your wider contacts:

<https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk>

*Christian Aid say this on their website:* Unfortunately under the current circumstances there is a delay to processing donations by post. Please give via the website where possible or call **020 7523 2269** to donate by telephone.

## **A Reflective Prayer in time of isolation**

'For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come... will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.' (Romans 8:38-39)

God of heaven and earth,  
in these times of isolation,  
apart from loved ones  
distant from friends  
away from neighbours  
thank you that there is nothing in all of creation,  
not even coronavirus,  
that is able to separate us from your love.

And may your love that never fails  
continue to be shared  
through the kindness of strangers looking out for each other,  
for neighbours near and far all recognising our shared vulnerability,  
each of us grateful for every breath,  
and willing everyone to know the gift of a full and healthy life.  
Keep us all in your care.

*Christian Aid*

## **Closing Prayer**

**May the presence of the Creator refresh us,  
may the comfort of the Son renew us,  
may the inspiration of the Spirit  
restore us to be love in action,  
even from a distance,  
in our neighbourhoods, near and far,  
this day and for evermore.  
Amen.**

*Christian Aid*

## **Anthem: Stanford - Beati quorum via**

*Soprano 1: Esther, Hannah, Anne, Xinyu*

*Soprano 2: Esther, Hannah, Anne, Xinyu*

*Alto: Esther, Xinyu, Margaret, Ginny*

*Tenor: Esther, Me, Richard*

*Bass 1: Esther, Me, Tim, Matthew, Alex*

*Bass 2: Me, Tim, Chris*

***The service continues on Zoom***

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### 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

**and also with you. Alleluia!**

Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace

### Chant: Bless the Lord my soul

**Bless the Lord**

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

### Preparation of the table

Be present, be present,  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
our risen high priest;  
make yourself known in the breaking of bread.

**Amen**



## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Spirit is here

**God's hope is in us**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them up to God**

Let us give thanks to the God of peace

**It is right to offer thanks and praise**

It is right and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Creating God.

In you all things are good.

You love us into being,

you form us in your image and breathe into us the breath of life.

When we turn away, and our love fails,

your love remains steadfast.

Your love delivers us from captivity,

and brings us into lands flowing with milk and honey.

You set before us the way of life.

And so, with the people of earth and all the company of heaven

we praise your name as we join their unending hymn:

**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.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus.

By his baptism and death you give your church birth into a living hope.

In Christ, risen from death,

you make a new covenant with us

by water and the Spirit, and deliver us into freedom.

We are now your resurrected people,

the living body of Christ. declaring life, hope and justice.

On the last night Jesus shared a meal with his friends,

he took bread, gave thanks to you,

broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take, eat: this is my Body which is given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

When the supper was over he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said,  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new Covenant,  
which is shed for you and for all,  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.

On the third day he was revealed to the women  
and was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of bread.

**Break the bread for freedom**

**Pour the wine for justice**

**Celebrate this meal for all the world**

**A meal of faith and hope,  
God's love shared among us**

And so, remembering these your mighty acts in Jesus the Christ,  
we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice,  
and we praise you and we bless you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
And upon these gifts of bread and wine.

By your spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other, and one in loving service to all the world,  
until all feast at your heavenly banquet.

**Blessing and honour and glory be yours  
Here and everywhere, now and for ever,  
Amen.**

*St Matthew in the City Auckland*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,  
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

**Lord, our hearts hunger for you;  
give us this bread always.**

## **Agnus Dei**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## Post Communion Prayers

Loving God,  
we seek your presence  
in the silence beyond words  
looking to you for comfort,  
strength, protection and reassurance  
breathing with gratitude  
holding on to hope  
trusting with faith  
that you are still God  
in the midst of the turmoil  
and that your love reaches  
to the ends of the earth.  
Be present with us now.

*Christian Aid*

## Blessing and Dismissal

### The Blessing

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

May the living God  
remove the suffocating shroud that lies upon our world;  
May the risen Saviour  
draw the sting of death, bringing all to life in him;  
May the flowing Spirit  
set us and all creation free and seal our hearts with faith;  
And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

With the risen life of Christ within you,  
go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**