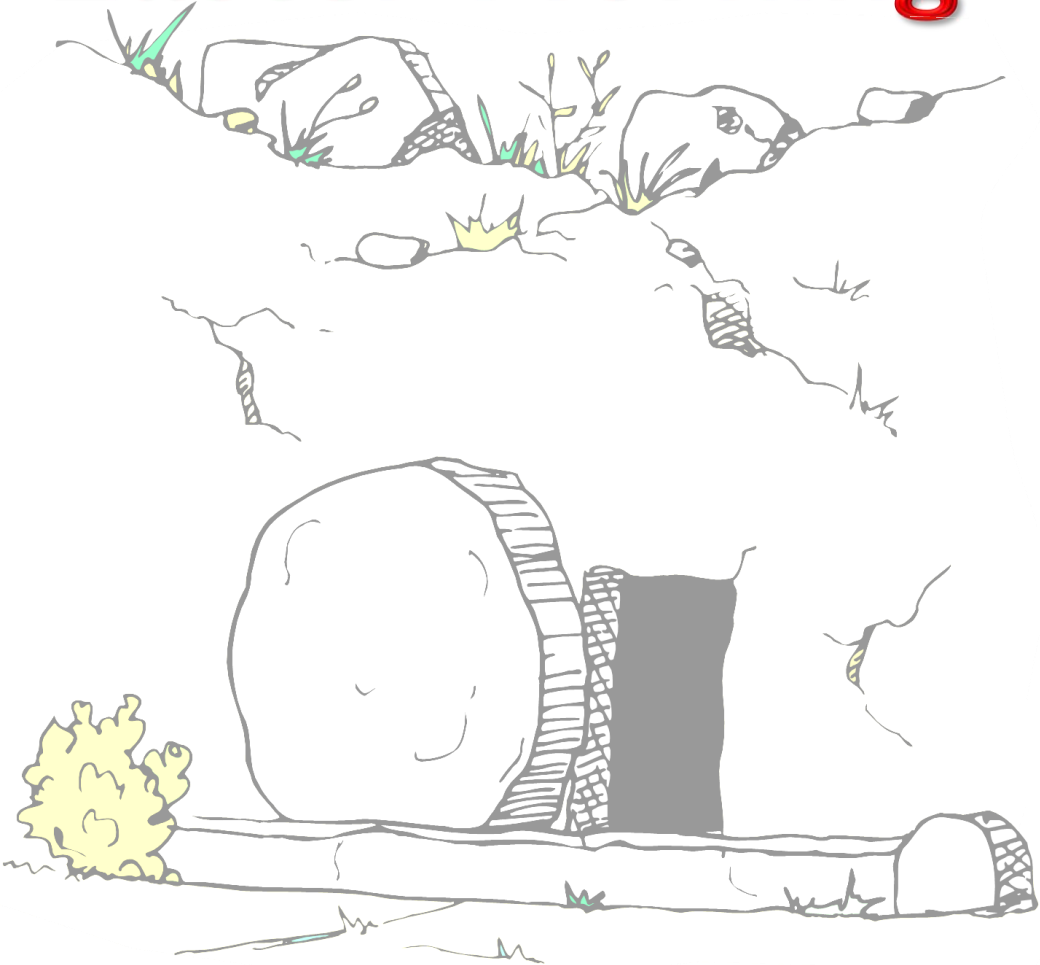


 Chet Valley Churches

Easter Morning



Traditional Communion
(Common Worship)
12th April 2020

Easter Sunday 2020

Good morning and welcome to this very unusual Easter Day service. You might like to have a candle, or candles, ready if you share your house, and some matches so that you can share the light. Easter is a time to renew baptismal vows so you might also like to have a small container of water ready.

Let us greet each other: Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Light your candle and if you have someone with you light their candle from yours.
Sing the Exultet with me*

**Christ the Light has come into the world,
Christ the Light has come into the world.** *[Sing three times]*

Hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen Today

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!**

**But the anguish He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation hath procured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!**

Invitation to Confession

Christ our Passover lamb as been sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins.

Like Mary at the empty tomb, we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.



Like the disciples behind locked doors, we are afraid to be seen as your followers. Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Like Thomas in the upper room, we are slow to believe.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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

The Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect: Prayer for Today

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the older order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ may reign with you in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. **Amen.**

The First Reading: Jeremiah 31. 1-6

At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus says the LORD: The people

who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merry-makers.

Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit. For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God."

The Second Reading: Acts 10: 34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Hymn: The Day of Resurrection

**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 God hath brought us over, with hymns of victory.**

**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.**

**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 hath no end.**

The Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

Alleluia, alleluia. I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore. **Alleluia.**

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

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.”

So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

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

Sermon by Rev Ros

What were your expectations for today a few weeks ago? No doubt it was to celebrate Easter in our beautifully decorated churches with our friends and families. We didn't expect that our churches would be locked and that we'd have to stay at home.

What are our expectations for today? Do we expect to greet the Risen Christ with joy in our hearts or are we feeling disappointed?

What were the expectations of the women as they made their way in the semi darkness of that morning? One thing is for certain, they did not expect to find the tomb empty. They had seen where he was layed. They, like many of us visited the tomb, just after the burial. They came with their grief. Their friend and the man they believed was the Messiah was dead. They came with disbelief that this had happened despite being told many times by Jesus, that he was going to be crucified. He also told them he would be raised again but that didn't sink in. The other gospels tell us they came with a question. How are we going to move the stone so they could get into the cave to anoint Jesus body. How were they going to deal with the tomb being sealed and the guards which had been posted near the entrance? We don't know what conclusions they reached but in any case the stone was rolled back dramatically by an earthquake.

That must have frightened them. Then to cap it all they see a vision of angels telling them that Jesus is risen and they are to go and tell the disciples, who are conspicuous by their absence!

We can only imagine emotional state they are in by now; mixture of fear, wonder, excitement. Can it be true? Then on their way Jesus meets them and they see for themselves that it is true. Jesus is alive! But there's no time to linger. They are instructed to go and tell the disciples and then go to Galilee where they will see him.

Jesus came to them in their darkest hour. It's often the case that he comes to us in our darkest hours because he promised he would be with us always.

The whole world is going through a very dark hour but we can take comfort from our Lord and risen Saviour that he is with us no matter what because he has conquered death and sin.

Renewal of our Baptismal vows

Now we come to the Renewal of our Baptismal vows

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism.

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ? **I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins? **I repent of my sins.**

Do you renounce evil? **I renounce evil.**



Prayer over the Water

Praise God who made heaven and earth, who keeps his promise for ever. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptised in the river Jordan, we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us.

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the Promised Land.

We thank you that through the deep waters of death you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.

Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them, bring them to new birth in the household of faith and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life;

for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours, now and for ever. **Amen.**

You may like to make the sign of the cross on your forehead.

The Intercessions

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

Lord our Heavenly Father we bring before you all who are worshipping you today, wherever they are and in whatever circumstances they find themselves in.

We pray for your protection for the vulnerable, the sick and the lonely. We give you thanks for all hospital and care workers and pray for their protection. We pray that you will guide and inspire researchers and engineers who are working hard to find ways of fighting the virus.

We pray for our families and friends and thank you for the technology that helps us to keep in touch.

We pray for the nations' leaders and advisors that right decisions will be made.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Hymn: The Strife is O'er

**The strife is o'er, the battle done;
Now is the Victor's triumph won;
O let the song of praise be sung:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Death's mightiest powers
have done their worst,
and Jesus hath his foes dispersed;
let shouts of praise and joy outburst:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**On the third morn he rose again
glorious in majesty to reign;
O let us swell the joyful strain:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee
from death's dread sting thy servants free,
that we may live, and sing to thee,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Amen.**

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. Alleluia. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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 thanks and praise.



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works. For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

**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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Praise to you Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
Rising you restored our life
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**



And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share in the one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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 for ever. Amen.**

Whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup will have eternal life, says the Lord. **You are the bread of life, Lord Jesus, and you will raise us up at the last day.**

Lamb of God

**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!

The Communion

The bread and wine we eat now are a token only, and not the same as a full sharing when we can be physically present with each other. It is a foretaste of the greater communion in which we can partake when our churches are open again and the restrictions are lifted.

Post-communion Prayer

God of life, who for our redemption gave your only begotten Son to the death of the cross and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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.

Hymn: Thine Be the Glory

**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 vict'ry, Thou o'er death hast won.***

**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.
*Thine be the glory...***

**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.
*Thine be the glory...***

The Blessing

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give you joy and peace in your faith; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always ' Amen

The Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

A happy and blessed Easter to you all!

