



**Chet Valley Churches**



**Holy Communion**  
**for the Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**25<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

## The Greeting and Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you, **and also with you.**  
Alleluia, Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

### **Hymn: All for Jesus, All for Jesus**

**All for Jesus: all for Jesus!  
This our song shall ever be;  
For we have no hope but Jesus,  
If we have not hope in thee.**

**All for Jesus: thou wilt give us  
Strength to serve thee hour by hour;  
None can move us from thy presence  
While we trust thy love and power.**

**All for Jesus: at thine altar  
Thou wilt give us sweet content;  
There, dear Lord, we shall receive thee  
In the solemn sacrament.**

**All for Jesus: thou hast love us;  
All for Jesus: thou hast died;  
All for Jesus: thou art with us;  
All for Jesus crucified.**

**All for Jesus: all for Jesus!  
This the church's song must be  
'Til at last her sons are gathered  
One in love and one in thee. Amen.**



### **Invitation to Confession**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

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 us and free us from our sins, heal  
and strengthen us by his Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### ♪ **Gloria in Excelsis: Peruvian Gloria**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to the Father.  
**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to the Father.**  
To him be glory for ever. **To him be glory for ever.**  
Alleluia amen. **Alleluia amen.** [x2]

Glory to God, Glory to God, Son of the Father.  
**Glory to God, Glory to God, Son of the Father.**  
To him be glory for ever. **To him be glory for ever.**  
Alleluia amen. **Alleluia amen.** [x2]

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to the Spirit.  
**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to the Spirit.**  
To him be glory for ever. **To him be glory for ever.**  
Alleluia amen. **Alleluia amen.** [x2]

### **The Collect: The Prayer of the Day**

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:  
teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command,  
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,  
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

# The Liturgy of the Word

## The First Reading: Acts 4:5-12

The next day the rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone." There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

For the word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

## **Hymn: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is***

**The King of love my shepherd is,  
Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
And he is mine for ever.**

**Where streams of living water flow  
My ransomed soul he leadeth,  
And where the verdant pastures grow  
With food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
But yet in love he sought me,  
And on his shoulder gently laid,  
And home rejoicing brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
With thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
Thy cross before to guide me.**



**Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
Thy unction grace bestoweth;  
And oh what transport of delight  
From thy pure chalice floweth!**

**And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never:  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
Within thy house for ever.**

**📖 Gospel reading: *John 10:11-18***

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 John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said, 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

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

**Sermon [Rev David]**

Several years ago, Nina, my wife, and I had a break on the north Norfolk coast. During our few days away we made a visit to the Norfolk Wildlife Trust's Centre in Cley. The views that day were quite wonderful out over the marsh towards the sea. But what took my fancy, was something in the shop. Amongst the many books for sale was one entitled "Birdsong", subtitled, '150 British and Irish birds and their amazing sounds'. And it does what it says on the cover. Not only are there wonderful photographs of

our plethora of birds but each one depicted also has a recording of their song which you can listen to. As the author Simon Barnes says: “Learning birdsong is not just a way to become a better bird-spotter. It is tuning in: a way of hearing the soundtrack of the planet earth...” Once we have tuned in to the voice of a bird singing, not only can we identify it and give it a name we can also relax into the joy of its song. Having said all that I’m still learning, but the familiar, the oft repeated, I can recognise!

But what about the human voice? Like the birds who sing, and call, our voices enable us to communicate. We use them to speak and sing—hopefully we’ll all be able to do that in Church before too long—its tone and volume can give us a hint of how the speaker is feeling. Then there’s a characteristic lilt in most people’s voices. This often identifies where they come from—or where they have spent much of their time. It can be quite fun trying to “guess” someone’s home area or country from their accent. Often we’re not even aware of it ourselves.

Over these past 15 or 16 months we have quite often relied on contacting people by phone or using other forms of technology and without having to say who we are people will often know from the sound of our voice. Although it can be misleading—a few years ago when he was living at home with us my son answered the phone and despite him telling the caller it was him, the person calling was in full flow and didn’t hear, so that they carried on as if speaking to me. In the end my son passed the phone over to me. As far as I could tell the caller was none the wiser that they had been talking to two different people. Family similarities.

In the build up to Good Friday we had a reading of the disciple Peter’s denial of Jesus—the main accusation made is: “Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean” (Mark 14.70) It was probably Peter’s accent which was so pronounced that those in Jerusalem could identify him as coming from Galilee. Yes, recognition of who is speaking is in the voice.

The second reading we heard today is a familiar story from John’s gospel. One Jesus’ “I am” statements. “I am the Good Shepherd,” Jesus tells those who are listening—a continuation of a conversation with some of the religious leaders—much more about himself. He tells them, and us, that those who want to follow the Good Shepherd will hear his voice, recognise it and act upon it. He is prepared to lay down his life for them. He’s not in it for the quick popularity stakes, he’s there to bring people together—the old and the new covenant. All who will listen to his voice,

and recognise his love that comes to fruition in the cross and resurrection. He died for us that we might live. Alleluia! Christ **is** risen. He **is** risen indeed. Alleluia!

## **The Confession of Faith**

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he was buried;  
he was raised to life on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers,  
and to all the apostles:  
this we have received,  
and this we believe. Amen.**

## **The Intercessions**

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

We pray for the Church of Christ...  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for creation and human society...  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the local community...  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are ill or in need...  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the communion of saints...  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**Merciful Father,  
accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. 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.  
**And also with you.**



### **♪ Hymn: *In Heavenly Love Abiding***

**In heavenly love abiding,  
No change my heart shall fear;  
And safe is such confiding,  
For nothing changes here:  
The storm may roar without me,  
My heart may low be laid;  
But God is round about me,  
And can I be dismayed?**

**Wherever he may guide me,  
No want shall turn me back;  
My Shepherd is beside me,  
And nothing can I lack:  
His wisdom ever waketh,  
His sight is never dim,  
He knows the way he taketh,  
And I will walk with him.**

**Green pastures are before me,  
Which yet I have not seen;  
Bright skies will soon be o'er me,  
Where darker clouds have been;  
My hope I cannot measure,  
My path to life is free;  
My Saviour has my treasure,  
And he will walk with me.**



# 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.**

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever. From the beginning you have created all things and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image, the crown of all creation. You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven we may find a voice to sing your praise:

**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.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord. As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied. He offered his life for sinners, and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends and, taking bread, he gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to them, saying: 'Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.'

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said: '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.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.  
You are the saviour of the world.**

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us in the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Remember, Lord, your Church in every land. Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace. Bring us at the last with all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour  
and glory and power  
be yours 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.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

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.**

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



## The Communion

### Prayer after Communion

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the Good Shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: Keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**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: *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*

**Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the head and cornerstone;  
Chosen of the Lord, and precious,  
Binding all the church in one,  
Holy Zion's help for ever,  
And her confidence alone.**

All that dedicated city,  
Dearly loved of God on high,  
In exultant jubilation  
Pours perpetual melody;  
God the One in Three adoring  
In glad hymns eternally.

To this temple, where we call thee,  
Come, O Lord of Hosts, today!  
With thy wonted loving-kindness,  
Hear thy servants as they pray,  
And your fullest benediction,  
Shed within its walls away.



### **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 those whom you love, now and always. **Amen.**

### **The Dismissal**

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

