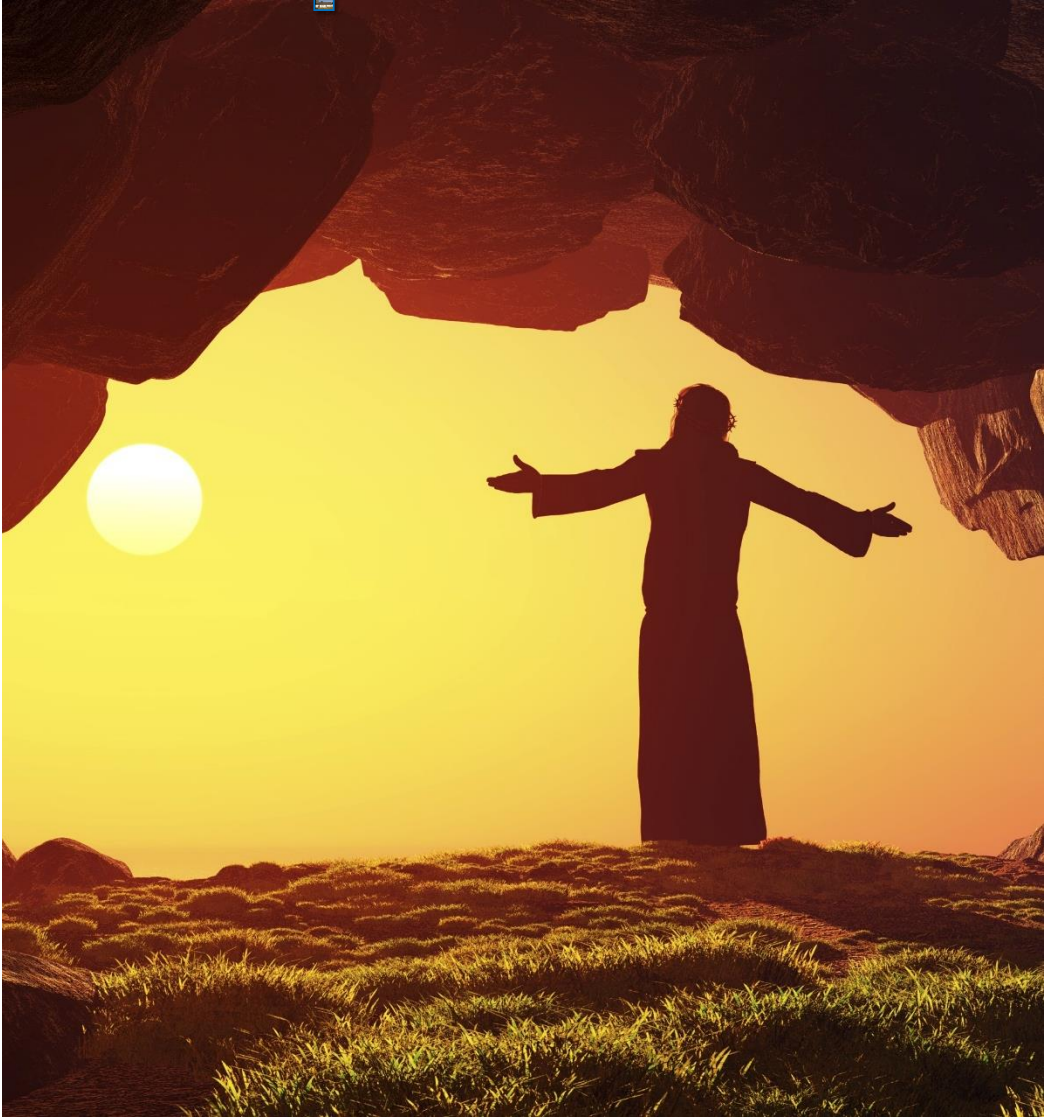




Chet Valley Churches



Easter Day

Holy Communion

17th April 2022

Welcome

The church is dark; no candles are lit. The paschal candle is lit in silence. Then:

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Praise God for the victory of light over darkness.

Praise God for Christ's victory over death.

The Collect (*Prayer for the Day*)

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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.**

Confession

In baptism we died with Christ, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, we might walk in newness of life. Let us receive new life in him as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Father God, we ask you to forgive us for the things we have thought, and the things we have said, and the things we have done that do not please you. We are sorry.



**Help us to be more like Jesus: ready to pray, ready to help others,
Ready to do your will in all things, every day. Amen.**

Absolution

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 Round (a capella)

**Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.
Gloria, Gloria. Alleluia! Alleluia!**



📖 Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Peter then said: Now I am certain that God treats all people alike. God is pleased with everyone who worships him and does right, no matter what nation they come from. This is the same message that God gave to the people of Israel, when he sent Jesus Christ, the Lord of all, to offer peace to them.

You surely know what happened everywhere in Judea. It all began in Galilee after John had told everyone to be baptized. God gave the Holy Spirit and power to Jesus from Nazareth. He was with Jesus, as he went around doing good and healing everyone who was under the power of the devil. We all saw what Jesus did both in Israel and in the city of Jerusalem.

Jesus was put to death on a cross. But three days later, God raised him to life and let him be seen. Not everyone saw him. He was seen only by us, who ate and drank with him after he was raised from death. We were the ones God chose to tell others about him.

God told us to announce clearly to the people that Jesus is the one he has chosen to judge the living and the dead. Every one of the prophets has said that all who have faith in Jesus will have their sins forgiven in his name.

♪ Gradual 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.**

Gospel: Luke 24:1-12

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. **Alleluia.**

He has defeated the powers of death. **Alleluia.**

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing. **Alleluia.**

He has the words of eternal life. **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke:

Glory to you O Lord.

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body.

While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.”

Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

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

Sermon [Belinda]

The women got there early. It was a task that needed to be got on with. The body, wrapped in linen, had been placed in a tomb on the eve of the sabbath, to ensure that the commandments were properly observed. Now it must be treated with spices and perfumes, before it decayed any further in the heat of the day.

Their mood must have been sombre, with the whole group from Galilee living in fear throughout their time in Jerusalem, sure of a reaction from the authorities if any of them put a foot out of line. Their beloved leader was dead, cruelly put to death in a painful and public way.

And now came the last straw: the tomb where they had seen his body placed carefully, with a stone rolled in front to protect it, was now a gaping hole. Perhaps one brave soul stepped in to see- but there was nothing to see. Then two figures appeared, men in dazzling garments, and at their moment of utmost terror gave the women the most extraordinary message: 'Why search among the dead for one who is alive?' They reminded them of what Jesus had said about what was going to happen to him, and the women needed no further persuasion- they hurried back to tell the apostles what they had seen and heard.

The men's reaction will come as no surprise to anyone who has tried to pass on amazing news to someone who is being measured and sensible and trying to help the speaker to face facts kindly but firmly. The story was obviously complete nonsense, the women influenced by the emotions of the moment, no longer really grasping realities.

But the women knew the significance of that empty tomb, they put it together with what Jesus had told them before he had been put to death, and saw the truth: the world had just shifted fundamentally. Jesus who had died was alive.

The empty tomb was an empty shell, now useless, like a chrysalis after a butterfly has emerged, or a bird's egg after the chick has hatched out.

In the 1970s Archbishop Janani Luwum of Uganda dared to stand up to one of the worst tyrants that Africa has ever seen, Idi Amin. Terrible things happened in Uganda in those years and truly dreadful suffering took place. The Archbishop tried to work ecumenically to curb Amin, but the persecution of Christians was out of control and his name became number

one on the hit list. Finally in 1977 it was reported that he had died in a motor accident. In other words, he had been executed by Amin's security thugs.

Radio Uganda ordered that no prayers should be said for the Archbishop and his memorial service was cancelled, the authorities refusing to release his body. Thousands turned up for Mattins at the Cathedral in Kampala that Sunday and surrounded the empty grave that had been dug for him. The retired Archbishop, Erica Sabiti told them 'What does that empty grave remind us of, but that other tomb in Jerusalem? Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here; he is alive. Janani is alive with the Lord. He went straight to heaven. Why bother about the body? There is the empty grave. The Church will continue: we may go but the Church will go on. Be of good courage!'

By his courage and his God given strength the Archbishop acted out the death and resurrection of Jesus. Just as Jesus' death did not lead to the overthrow of the oppressive Roman regime, neither would Amin be toppled from power, not yet. But it showed individual people something uniquely special about God's love for the world and for each of them, the love that Luwum lived in each moment of his life. The love that made him say 'We must love the President. We must pray for him. He is a child of God.' The Archbishop never gave up loving: Amin did not win. The most powerful dictators must come to dust. Love is always stronger than hate. Life is always stronger than death.

Jesus' empty tomb, his resurrection shows us that evil does not have the final victory. With God on our side the human spirit is indomitable.

In the past few months we have all become aware of our own great good fortune in living in a country where freedom is valued and human rights respected. We are not called upon to stand up to an obvious enemy. But maybe God is calling us out of our comfort zone, calling us to speak out about the injustices that we see in society, or to stick up for the underdog, or to be a positive voice in a negative place. Most of all though, I think he is calling us to take joy and peace and strength and security from him and to take it out into the world, to spread some light at a time of darkness.

Our faith is built on the promise that hope can be found in despair. The empty tomb symbolises that promise and that hope. So let us live as people who know that the tomb is empty and allow that emptiness to fill us with love and faith and hope in believing. The Lord is risen indeed- Alleluia!

We Believe...

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the Easter mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore we ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. Therefore we ask:

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

Prayers

Today we heard that the women returned to Jesus' tomb and were astonished to find it empty. The angels told them that Jesus had risen from the dead. Wow! In our prayers today we are going to imagine amazing things and pray for them.

We look at the divided Church and imagine it united and filled with renewed purpose and energy.

Risen Lord, **your kingdom come.**

We look at the polluted world, increasingly scarred by human activity, and imagine it restored, healthy and beautiful.

Risen Lord, **your kingdom come.**

We look at human wickedness in all its forms—from the large-scale, like warfare, to the small untruths we all tell—and imagine societies driven only by love for you and one another.

Risen Lord, **your kingdom come.**

We remember our own frailties here in the Chet Valley and imagine life in our parishes if we all pulled together for the coming of your kingdom.

Risen Lord, **your kingdom come.**

We remember today those who suffer spiritually, emotionally or physically, those who are dying, and imagine the resolution of their pain.

Risen Lord, **your kingdom come.**

We remember the pain of grieving and imagine the joy of lives shared and the confidence of eternal bliss.

Risen Lord, **your kingdom come.**

We make our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. May the Easter light of life, hope and joy live in us each day. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

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 Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

♪ Offertory Hymn: Lord of the Dance

**I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth:
At Bethlehem I had my birth.**

***Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.***

**I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me;**

**I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
They came with me and the dance went on:**

Dance, then, wherever you may be...

**I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high,
And they left me there on a cross to die:**

Dance, then, wherever you may be...

**I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;
But I am the dance, and I still go on:**

Dance, then, wherever you may be...

**They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.**

Dance, then, wherever you may be...

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.

Holy, Holy, **Holy.** [*Getting louder*]

It is always right to give you thanks, God our Creator, loving and faithful, holy and strong. You made us and the whole universe, and filled your world with life.

Holy, Holy, **Holy.** [*Getting louder*]

You sent your Son to live among us, Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.
He suffered on the cross; he died to save us from our sins; he rose in glory from the dead.



Holy, Holy, **Holy.** *[Getting louder]*

You send your Spirit to bring new life to the world, and clothe us with power from on high. And so we join the angels to celebrate and sing:

**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.**

Father, on the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with his friends. He took the bread, and thanked you. He broke it, and gave it to them, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine. He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you. This is my blood, the new promise of God's unfailing love. Do this to remember me.

Jesus Christ has died. *[Open your arms]*

Jesus Christ has died. *[Open your arms]*

Jesus Christ is risen. *[Raise your arms]*

Jesus Christ is risen. *[Raise your arms]*

Jesus Christ will come again. *[Wave arms in celebration]*

Jesus Christ will come again. *[Wave arms in celebration]*

Father, as we bring this bread and wine, and remember his death and resurrection, send your Holy Spirit, that we who share these gifts may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Amen, Amen, **Amen.** *[Getting louder]*

Pour your Spirit on us that we may love one another, work for the healing of the earth, and share the good news of Jesus, as we wait for his coming in glory.

Amen, Amen, **Amen.** *[Getting louder]*

For honour and praise belong to you, Father, with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit: one God, for ever and ever.

Amen, Amen, **Amen.** *[Getting louder]*

The service continues with the Lord's Prayer.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on Earth as it is 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 Fraction (Breaking of Bread)

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**



The Invitation

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord, it is made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more.

So, come, you who have much faith, and you who have little, you who have been here often, and you who have not been for a long time, you who have tried to follow, and you who have failed.

Come, not because it is I who invite you: it is our Lord, it is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Come.

The Communion

✠ 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.

Ending

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

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.
**He has brought us out of darkness.
He has made us light to the world.**

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

Blessing

May Jesus, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,
fill you with his new life;

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

He is not here; he is risen. Alleluia!
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ, Amen.

♪ Final 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 victory 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...

