



Welcome

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

28 April



actorschurch



St. Paul's Covent Garden



@actorschurch

Please switch off all mobile phones.

BEWARE: We do occasionally suffer from theft: take care of your belongings

Accessibility

Large Print versions of the Order of Service are available.

Gluten free wafers are available.

Hearing loop installed; collect a receiver from the back of church.

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We stand as the Altar Party enters and sing the hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

2 Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temple leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy host above;
pray, and praise thee, without
ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

3 Finish then thy new creation:
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

The Priest goes to the Lectern and says:

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

All Amen.

Priest The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Priest Alleluia, Christ is Risen

All He is Risen indeed. Alleluia.

The priest introduces the service and then leads the congregation in prayer:

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are
hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you, and
worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The priest invites the congregation to seek God's mercy and grace. We say together:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through
weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus
Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in
newness of life
to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

*The Priest announces the **Absolution** to which all reply: **Amen**. The **Gloria** is sung from the separate music sheet. The prayer of the day – the **Collect** – is sung.*

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Amen.

*We sit for the **first** and **second** readings.*

First Reading

Acts 8.26-40, read by Charles

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' ³¹He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.' ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he

proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

At the end:

Reader	This is the word of the Lord.
All	Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 John 4.7-21, read by James

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those

who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

At the end:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God

*We stand to sing the **hymn** and face the Gospel book*

**Bread of heaven, on thee we feed,
for thy flesh is meat indeed;
ever may our souls be fed
with this true and living bread;
day by day with strength supplied
through the life of him who died.**

**2 Vine of heaven, thy blood supplies
this blest cup of sacrifice;
Lord, thy wounds our healing give,
to thy cross we look and live:
Jesus may we ever be
grafted, rooted, built in thee.**

All remain standing as the Gospel is read

Priest The Lord be with you
All And also with you

Priest Hear the Gospel of our Lord
Jesus Christ according to John
(15, 1- 8)

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: ¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the

branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

from my Father.'

At the end:

Priest This is the Gospel of the
Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

*We sit for the **Sermon***

*We stand to say the **Creed***

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen
We believe in One Lord Jesus Christ
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.**

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The **Prayers of Intercession** follow

At the end:

Priest Merciful Father,
All accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, Amen.

The Priest introduces the **Peace**:

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always
All And also with you
 Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We sing a **hymn** as the Altar is prepared for the **Eucharistic Prayer**. A **collection** is taken during the **hymn**

God is love - his the care,
 tending each, everywhere;
 God is love - all is there!
 Jesus came to show him,
 that we all might know him:

*Sing aloud, loud, loud;
 sing aloud, loud, loud:
 God is good,
 God is truth, God is beauty - praise him!*

2 Jesus shared all our pain,
 lived and died, rose again,
 rules our hearts, now as then -
 for he came to save us
 by the truth he gave us: *Sing etc*

3 To our Lord praise we sing -
 light and life, friend and king,
 coming down love to bring,
 pattern for our duty,
 showing God in beauty: *Sing etc*

Priest Blessed are you Lord God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

All Blessed be God for ever
 Priest Blessed are you Lord God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer. Fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink
All Blessed be God for ever
 Priest Pray my sisters and brothers that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the Almighty Father

All May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hand, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his Church.

The Priest adds the prayer over the gifts to which we reply **Amen**

Priest The Lord be with you
All And also with you.
Priest Lift up your hearts.
All We lift them to the Lord.
Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord
 our God.
All It is right to give thanks
 and praise...

*The Eucharistic Prayer continues until we sing
Sanctus and **Benedictus** from the music sheet*

*The **Eucharistic Prayer** continues until...*
Priest: Great is the mystery of faith
All: Christ has died
 Christ is risen
 Christ will come again

The Eucharistic Prayer continues until
Priest ...for ever and ever
All: Amen
Priest: As our Saviour taught us, so
 we pray:

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

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

*The **Agnus Dei** is sung from the music sheet*

Priest Jesus is the Lamb of God who
 takes away the sin of the
 world, blessed are those who
 are called to his supper.
All Lord, I am not worthy to
 receive you,
 but only say the word,
 and I shall be healed.

*The congregation approaches the altar to receive
Communion. All those who are in good
standing with their own Church are invited to
receive Communion.*

**Please make your way to the Altar
rail, and kneel (if able)**

**Please receive Communion in your
hand ONLY. If you do not wish to
receive the Chalice, please return to
your place.**

**Please keep absolute silence during
Communion**

Post Communion Prayers:

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

We say together:

Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son
Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls
and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.

*Any Banns of marriage and notices are given.
and then the Priest says:*

Priest The Lord be with you
All And also with you

*The **Blessing** is given to which all reply: **Amen**
We sing the **hymn** and turn to face the West
End for the **dismissal***

**Jerusalem the golden,
with milk and honey blest,
beneath thy contemplation
sink heart and voice opprest.
I know not, O I know not,
what social joys are there,
what radiancy of glory,
what light beyond compare.**

**2 They stand, those halls of Sion,
conjubilant with song,
and bright with many an angel,
and all the martyr throng;
the Prince is ever in them,
the daylight is serene,
the pastures of the blessed
are decked in glorious sheen.**

**3 O sweet and blessed country,
shall I ever see thy face?
O sweet and blessed country,
shall I ever win thy grace?
Exult, O dust and ashes!
The Lord shall be thy part:
his only, his for ever,
thou shalt be, and thou art!**

Priest. Go in peace to love and
serve the Lord, Alleluia,
Alleluia

**All Thanks be to God,
Alleluia, Alleluia.**

‘What’s On’ this week

Today

12.15pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Tuesday 30 April

2.30pm TCUK Trustees’ meeting

Church and grounds close at 3.30pm

Wednesday 1 May

12.00 Sandwich Lunch in church – *all welcome*

1.10pm Holy Eucharist

2pm Unveiling of the plaque to the late John Harwood RIP

Thursday 2 May

Church used as a Polling Station: closed for all church activities.

Grounds are open as usual

Friday 3 May

2pm Memorial Service for the late Joss Ackland RIP

Saturday 4 May

7pm & 9pm Musicals by Candlelight **

Sunday 5 May

11.00 Parish Sung Eucharist

for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

May Fayre

Don’t forget the May Fayre and Puppet Festival will take place on Sunday 12 May from 12-5pm

*** Tickets for all paid events at St. Paul’s can be obtained via our website*
www.actorschurch.org