

**St Andrew's with Castle Gate URC**  
**Order for Worship for 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at 11.00am**  
**Easter Day**

**Call to Worship** – 1 Peter 1:3 & 4

'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you.'

**Hymn** – R&S 232. Christ the Lord is risen today OMIT vv 3 & 4

1. Christ the Lord is risen today,  
*Alleluia!*  
let creation join to say:  
*Alleluia!*  
raise your joys and triumphs high,  
*Alleluia!*  
sing, ye heavens; thou earth, reply:  
*Alleluia!*
2. Love's redeeming work is done,  
fought the fight, the battle won;  
lo! our sun's eclipse is o'er;  
lo! he sets in blood no more.
3. Soar we now where Christ hath led,  
following our exalted Head;  
made like him, like him we rise:  
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

4. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!  
Praise to thee by both be given:  
thee we greet triumphant now,  
hail, the Resurrection Thou!

Charles Wesley (1707-88) altd.

**Opening Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

Almighty and Eternal God, we praise you for the wonder of this day and we glory in the greatest thing that has ever happened for our world.

**Today the world is transformed; today the boundaries of what we thought possible have been burst apart. Today a new start is possible for all your people and for the whole of creation.**

You have brought new life and now we know that your love is so much greater than we had ever imagined.

**Please open our lives to meet you in this time of worship, so that all our days may become Easter days.**

Eternal God, today we marvel at the extent of the love of your Son, Jesus. He was betrayed, denied and abandoned, yet still, willingly, he went to his death, offering his life for the life of the world. And after he rose again, he appeared first to those who had forsaken him, reaching out his hands in acceptance, speaking words of peace.

**Eternal God, we know that our faith is sometimes no better than the faith of those first disciples, our courage no stronger, our commitment no more able to withstand**

**adversity. Sometimes we betray you by the way we live; sometimes we deny you through the things we say and do; sometimes we abandon you, preferring the easy road, rather than the way of the cross. Please forgive us and help us to walk your way in faith and in confidence.**

Eternal God, thank you for being ready to forgive and forget and for offering us the opportunity to make amends. Thank you for understanding our weakness, for inviting us to start again and for helping and strengthening us to follow you more closely. We praise you that you are always with us to restore and renew.

**We commit ourselves afresh to your service, resolved to live more faithfully as your people and to stay true to you as you stay true to us.**

We sum up all our prayers as we say together the prayer that Jesus himself taught us:

**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.**

Reading – Jeremiah 31:1-6 read by Noel Worley

Antem – “God so loved the world” from ‘The Crucifixion’ by John Stainer

Hymn – R&S 234. Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord

*Alleluia, alleluia,  
give thanks to the risen Lord,  
alleluia, alleluia,  
give praise to his name.*

1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth;  
he is the King of creation:
2. Spread the good news o’er all the earth;  
Jesus has died and has risen:
3. We have been crucified with Christ;  
now we shall live for ever:
4. Come, let us praise the living God,  
joyfully sing to our Saviour:

Don Fishel (1950- )

**Blessing for our Young Friends**

**Almighty and Eternal God, we ask your blessing on all our young friends wherever they are, enjoying the Easter holidays, but separated from their friends and anxious about the future. We pray that you will give them hope, inner peace and the profound knowledge that they are loved and cared for. Please keep them safe and wrap your blessing around them. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. Amen.**

**Reading** – Matthew 28:1-10 read by Zoe Logan

**Talk** – He is going ahead of you

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

**Almighty and eternal God, even in these difficult times we have so many blessings and they all come from you. We give you our heartfelt thanks for all your love and goodness towards us. We offer our gifts in whatever way we can as an expression of our gratitude; we offer ourselves, all that we are and all that we have to be used in the furthering of your Kingdom across your world.**

Eternal God, in this world where hopes are so often dashed and dreams so often broken, we remember today the hope for the future that you brought and bring to so many, through the gift of the life and death of Jesus and through his resurrection from the dead.

**Gracious God, wherever there is sorrow, please bring your joy.**

We pray for those who suffer today, for all who endure constant pain, all who wrestle with illness, all who are victims of violence or whose bodies are broken by accident or injury.

**Gracious God, wherever there is sorrow, please bring your joy.**

We pray for those who feel betrayed, those who have been cheated by loved ones, or deceived by those they trusted, or hurt by those they counted as friends, or who feel let down by society.

**Gracious God, wherever there is sorrow, please bring your joy.**

We pray for all those who are grieving today, those whose hearts are broken by tragedy and bereavement, their lives torn apart.

We pray for those for whom tears are a constant companion, laughter and happiness some distant memory.

**Gracious God, wherever there is sorrow, please bring your joy.**

Eternal God, please reach out into our world wherever there is pain, heartache and sadness. May your light scatter the shadows, your love lift the burdens and your resurrection power bring life in all its fullness.

**Gracious God, wherever there is sorrow, please bring your joy.**

Eternal God, remind us that, with you by our side, faith should be an ongoing journey, an unfolding story of adventure and discovery. Please give us an expectation of new insights and new experiences, an openness to new horizons and a desire to grow in grace, wisdom and contentment. Please reveal your presence to us through your word, your world, your Church, your Spirit and help us to greet each new day in the knowledge that you are with us, leading us forward, whatever we face, and that each moment brings us nearer to you and further along the road that leads to the joys you hold in store.

We offer all our prayers in the knowledge that it is impossible to pray honestly and for nothing to happen. And to you, eternal God, be all honour, praise and glory, now and for evermore. **Amen.**

### **Invitation to the Table**

Jesus said that anyone who wanted to follow him could remember him by eating bread and drinking wine. We gather together now to celebrate Holy Communion in order to remember Jesus, to give thanks for all that he means for our day to day living and to commit ourselves to trying to walk his way more faithfully.

**Hymn – R&S 453. Let us talents and tongues employ**

1. Let us talents and tongues employ,  
reaching out with a shout of joy:  
bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

*Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!*

2. Christ is able to make us one,  
at this table he set the tone,  
teaching people to live to bless,  
love in word and in deed express.
3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out  
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share:  
God (Immanuel) everywhere!

Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

## **The Story**

To anyone who wants to follow him, Jesus gave an example and a command, based on the experience he shared with his disciples in an upstairs room in Jerusalem.

**On the night on which he was betrayed and as they were sitting at a meal, Jesus took a piece of bread and broke it. He gave it to his disciples saying, “This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me.”**

**Later, after they had eaten, Jesus took a cup of wine and said, “This cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink this all of you, to remember me.”**

So, now we do as Jesus did. And as he said a prayer of thanks with his friends, so now we give our thanks and praise to God.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Eternal God, we thank and praise you that it is possible for us to know and love you, to trust you and to serve you. You have made our beautiful world and you have made us to enjoy it and to enjoy being with each other.

**Eternal God, we thank you for the example of Jesus. We thank you for the love he shared with all people; we thank you that he showed us the importance of loving you and putting you first in our lives; we thank you that he taught us that we can always say sorry and find a new way of living; we thank you for the care he gave to people in need and for the way he encouraged people who had lost confidence in themselves. We thank you that he was prepared to suffer and to die in order that his message of love should be shared with the world. We thank you for resurrection joy, that you are able to transform horrible situations and out of them bring new life, not just for us, but also for our world.**

So now we come to this table to remember Jesus and to ask that we might be strengthened to live as he lived. Help us to be faithful followers of his way, sharing his love with all.  
**Amen.**

## **The Sharing of the Bread and the Wine**

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

This bread symbolises for us all that Jesus achieved in his earthly life and ministry. Let us eat with thanksgiving and may the spirit in which he lived be our spirit.

*We eat together*

This cup symbolises for us all that Jesus achieved in his suffering and death upon the cross. Let us drink with thanksgiving and may the spirit in which he died be our spirit.

*We drink together*

## **Prayer after Communion**

**Eternal God, we give you our deep thanks for this time together, for these symbols that have reminded us of Jesus and for the people of our fellowship whom we know and love. We now offer you our day to day living. Help us to live as changed people, to walk in the way of Jesus and to share love and kindness with all. Amen.**

**Hymn** – R&S 247. Thine be the glory

1. 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.*

2. 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:
3. No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;  
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;  
make us more that conquerors through thy deathless  
love;  
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:

Edmond Budry (1854-1932)

Tr. R. B. Hoyle (1875-1939)

## **Benediction: The Blessing of St Columba**

**Be Thou a bright flame before me,  
Be Thou a guiding star above me,  
Be Thou a smooth path below me,  
Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me,  
Today and forever. Amen.**

## **We wish you all a very Happy Easter**

*Opening Prayers and Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession  
adapted for use from "Prayers for All Seasons, Book 2" by Nick  
Fawcett. Parts of the Service of Holy Communion from  
"Worship: from the United Reformed Church".*