

**ST. ANDREW'S WITH CASTLE GATE
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**



Family Communion

SUNDAY 5TH APRIL 2026 11AM

Worship led by Revd David Featonby

Introduction to Worship

We Gather and We Celebrate
What are we to make of this day?
When graves are opened...
When the dead awaken...
When life refuses to be contained...

***Then nothing is impossible! Hope is never extinguished,
and love is never conquered.***

We celebrate You today, Jesus,
Because You have shown that death does not have the last
word;
Because You have filled us again with hope and faith;
Because You have given us a vision of new possibilities, new
realities, and new ways of being.

***Open our minds to believe what we cannot explain; Open
our hearts to hope for what we cannot see; Open our
lives to live and to love in the midst of death and despair;
Let resurrection happen again in us today. Amen.***

Hymn: Jesus Christ is risen today (Tune CH4 410)

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 pains that he endured, Alleluia,
our salvation have procured, Alleluia,
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia,
where the angels ever sing, Alleluia.

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

Peace in our time - A reflection for Easter

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you

A Prayer for Peace & Confession as we light the peace candles

God, resurrection is not what we expect in our world.
On the face of things, life seems to be under threat... our earth
is grieving, our families are fracturing, our nations are at war,
and the light of our hope is growing dim.

We need the stone to be rolled away again.

Forgive us and all who have failed to honour and preserve life
in all its diversity and glory

Forgive us and all who have allowed relationships to become
less important than riches or recognition

Forgive us and all who continue to exalt our needs and
desires over those of others, and who are prepared to kill to
prove it.

Forgive us and all who have grown blind to all the signs of
resurrection that beckon us still.

We need the stone to be rolled away again.

We need life to break out within us again.

We need love to consume us again.

***Resurrect us today, O Lord, and make us agents of Your
life wherever dying and grief hold sway.***

For Jesus sake. Amen.

Reading Mark 16: 1-8

Hymn: In Christ Alone (MP 1074)

In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song.
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine —
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me.
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand.
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

*"In Christ alone my hope is found" by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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Talk Eggs, bunnies and all that!

Hymn: R&S 241 Led like a lamb to the slaughter

Led like a lamb to the slaughter
In silence and shame,
There on Your back You carried a world
Of violence and pain.
Bleeding, dying, bleeding, dying.
*You're alive, You're alive,
You have risen, Alleluia!
And the power and the glory is given,
Alleluia, Jesus, to You.*

At break of dawn, poor Mary,
Still weeping she came,
When through her grief she heard Your voice
Now speaking her name.
Mary (men), Master (women), Mary, Master!
You're alive....

At the right hand of the Father
Now seated on high
You have begun Your eternal reign
Of justice and joy.
Glory, glory, glory, glory.
*You're alive, You're alive,
You have risen, Alleluia!
And the power and the glory is given,
Alleluia, Jesus, to You.*

*"Led like a lamb to the slaughter" by Graham Kenrick
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Offertory

Anthem: Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord, D Fishel & J Raney

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Welcome

It looks like bread, and it is bread. But God is incredibly imaginative. There is a surprise in this bread, for within each crumb, God has folded nothing less than heaven. And when we break it, and everyone has a piece, what we are doing is saying.....

"Let us share together the story of Jesus."

It looks like a goblet of wine, and it is wine, but God, being God, didn't leave it there, and has squeezed into each drop, a promise for the whole world. And when we pass it among us, and everyone has a taste, we are reminded.....

"God loves me, God loves us, God loves his creation".

So let us break bread and listen to the story, and share wine and hear the promise of salvation.

The Institution of the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Thanks

It is right and good to give you thanks and praise, O God, because from the beginning, you invited us on a journey with you, a journey of wonders and miracles, a journey of healing and joy, a journey of mystery, a journey full of life and love.

Blessed is your son, O God, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who joined us on our journey, who was so full of grace and truth that we cannot help but follow him. When his path went back to you, you sent us your Spirit to continue alongside us, to empower and inspire us to continue to be your people. Now we pray that that same Spirit will be among us, and among these elements of bread and wine, that our ordinary meal will become our sacred feast, to nourish us for the next part of the journey.

As we break bread together, as we drink from the same cup, unite us as people who are grateful for the journey, for each other's company, and for your guiding presence.

The Distribution

"This bread is my body," says Jesus. "Eat of it, all of you."

"This wine is my blood and within it is a promise. Drink of it, all of you."

Prayer after Communion

***Eternal God, whose Son 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.***

Lord Jesus, you have blessed us today and shown us your love. Help us to take your blessing and your love into the world. Amen.

Hymn: R&S 247 Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son

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,

Benediction. (spoken Amen)

