



CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS : www.holycrossedinburgh.org

Congregational e-news for the Second Sunday of EASTER 19 April

From the Rector, the Revd Dr Stephen Holmes

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I. KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER

Dear friends at Holy Cross,

As I write this the sun is shining and more people than usual are walking past the Rectory, but our lockdown has been extended for another three weeks and it may well last for longer than that.

I am continuing to celebrate the Eucharist at the usual times for you at Holy Cross and in the Rectory Oratory and I hope that the resources in this letter and the various videos and online services are helping you keep your Christian life alive. Our Church is still a House of Prayer and by our prayer while we stay at home we are still a community of prayer.



BACKGROUNDS

FOR BROADCASTING FROM THE CLERGY STUDY



SCHOLARLY



ARTISTIC



SPIRITUAL



REALISTIC

Like a lot of clergy I have produced and watched more videos than ever before. Politicians have been doing the same and, rather like the old Edinburgh custom of walking about at night looking in people's windows to check out their taste in interior design, it has been interesting to see from where people broadcast. The cartoon here, from the Church Times, appeared on our Facebook page.

One big question is how you would like to keep in touch with us all at Holy Cross. For some it is good just to pray at home and

some like to use the same prayers and readings as others; some like to follow a live-streamed service online; some desperately miss meeting their friends each week; others miss the Eucharist most of all; and some may just want to sit back with a drink and read a book. This weekly e-news is one part of our plan as a congregation; another is sharing information about online services such as those celebrated each Sunday by our Bishops; and another is the way we are keeping in touch by phone and email – I always enjoy your responses to this news bulletin.

In addition to this would you like to celebrate Evening Prayer together on Zoom? I have done this with fellow tutors at the Scottish Episcopal Institute and found it worked well. I know some of you have also shared prayer in this way. Many of you use similar programmes such as Facetime and Skype and we have used Zoom for a vestry meeting which went well. You would need email and a computer with a camera. It would simply mean me sending you a link by email,

you click on the link and at the appropriate time we would all appear on screen. The order of service will be sent out and it is also possible to have it on our screens. I propose 5pm on Thursday 23rd but let me know if that is not convenient. If you are interested send me an email.

May God bless you and yours, ask if you need anything and I end with Jesus' words which we used on our last Sunday together at Holy Cross, 'love your neighbour and do not be afraid'.

With love in Christ,



Pastoral Team

If anyone needs help while self-isolating or shielding, please contact me or one of our pastoral team:

- Alan Kirkpatrick (07891 237940 or muttley.l@blueyonder.co.uk)
- Helen Smith (07917 695491 or Helgillard@yahoo.com)
- Angela Gardner (07703 443291 or angela.gardner@ajenterprises.co.uk)

Helping your Church

Holy Cross, like most churches, is losing income during the crisis and will need to spend a lot soon to obtain a new heating system. If you would like to make a donation via online banking or set up a standing order the Church's bank details are: Royal Bank of Scotland Sort code 83-18-47; Account number 00170278; Account name: Church of the Holy Cross). Many thanks to those who have done this and Gordon has asked me to let you know that if you don't do online banking, you can donate by cheque or via the Virgin Money Giving Button on our website: [HERE](#)

2. KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH GOD



This Sunday is Quasimodo Sunday! Not the hunchback of Notre Dame but the first word of a passage from the First Letter of St Peter which for centuries has been the 'Introit' or opening sentence of this Sunday: "*Quasimodo geniti infantes...* like newborn infants you must long for the pure spiritual milk that in his you may grow to salvation, alleluia" (1 Peter 2:2).

It is a Sunday with lots of names: the Second Sunday of Easter, unlike Sundays AFTER Pentecost these are Sundays OF Easter because the whole fifty days of Eastertide are one big feast of the Resurrection; Low Sunday, meaning a Sunday just like Easter but with a lower level of solemnity; Thomas Sunday, because this is the day Jesus appeared to doubting Thomas (John 20:19-31 is the gospel for the day); Divine Mercy Sunday, among Roman Catholics commemorating an apparition of Jesus to a Polish nun; the old Latin name is Sunday 'in albis depositis' ('putting off white clothing') because the newly baptised wore their white baptismal robes at Church for a whole week after their baptism on Easter Day.

This Sunday is a day to think about baptism and it is not surprising that the first reading today is from the First Letter of St Peter, probably written for the newly baptised, which we continue to read each day this week at Morning Prayer (see the readings below). Our daughter Bess was going to be baptised today and like many families we have had to postpone the sacrament. It is however a day on which we can give thanks for our own baptism, think of where we were baptised, and pray that many more might come to faith in Christ.

3. PRAYER & READINGS FOR EASTER WEEK

These are offered so we can stay together in our prayers even if we can't meet together. The collects and readings are those that are used in Church at the Eucharist & Daily Prayer.

Choose which ones you want to use and don't feel any obligation to do everything! If we do use even some of them we know we are part of a big community, all meditating on the same bits of the Bible each day and all praying in the same way. This can be a consolation when we are isolated.

All the readings for the whole year can be downloaded by clicking on this link:

<https://www.osp.org.uk/worship/calendar-lectionary/>

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Low Sunday) – 19 April

- *Collect:* Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through Christ our Lord, Amen.
- *Readings at the Eucharist:* Acts 2.14a,22-32 ; I Peter 1.3-9 ; John 20.19-31
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church community (Beth McG; Isobel W-I); Deacon Elias and the Syrian Orthodox congregation at Holy Cross; our local and national political leaders. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* Bishop John; St Andrew's, Kelso, Revd Bob King & Revd Grace Redpath

Monday 20 April – St Maelrubha of Applecross

Maelrubha was an Irish monk who founded a monastery at Applecross and evangelised Skye and the mainland up to Loch Broom. He had a hermitage on an island in Loch Maree and died in 722.

- *Daily Readings:* Exodus 14.21-31 ; I Peter 1.1-12 ; John 14.1-17
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Helen A; Graham H), families with children at home and our local schools starting virtual teaching, St Maelrubha's Episcopal Church, Poolewe. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* St. Fillan's Buckstone and the Revd Ruth Innes.

Tuesday 21 April – St Anselm of Canterbury

- *Daily Readings:* Exodus 15.1-21 ; I Peter 1.13-25 ; John 14.18-31
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Andy; Eric T), those worried about their jobs, businesses & financial situation. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* St Mungo's, West Linton and the Revd Nick Bowry.

Wednesday 22 April

- *Daily Readings:* Exodus 15.22–16.10 ; I Peter 2.1-10 ; John 15.1-11
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Heather A; Mike H), those working from home, St Margaret's RC Church. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* Hermitage of the Transfiguration in Loanhead, Br John Halsey, and the renewal of monastic and religious life in the diocese.

Thursday 23 April – St George the Martyr

- *Daily Readings:* Exodus 16.10-22 ; I Peter 2.11-25 ; John 15.12-27
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Lucy; Peter S), the NHS, medical staff, emergency services and all key workers. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* Bishop John, the Primus and the College of Bishops; for retired Bishops, including our own Bishop Bob Halliday.

Friday 24 April

- *Daily Readings:* Exodus 16.23-36 ; I Peter 3.13–4.6 ; John 16.1-15
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Margaret M; Andrew), and those who live around us especially those shielding and self-isolating. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* St Andrew's, Innerleithen and St Peter's, Peebles, and their new Rector the Revd Andrew Taylor-Cook, due to be instituted next month.

Saturday 25 April – St Mark the Evangelist

- *Readings at the Eucharist:* Isaiah 52.7-10 ; Ephesians 4.7-16 ; Mark 1.1-15 or 13.5-13
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church community (Molly; our families), those suffering from Covid-19 and their families around the world. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* St John's, Jedburgh and Fr Andrew Cooper.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – 26 April

- *Collect:* Almighty Father, in your great mercy you gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.
- *Readings at the Eucharist:* Acts 2.14a, 36-41 ; I Peter 1.17-23 ; Luke 24.13-35
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church community (Beth McG; Isobel W-I); Deacon Elias and the Syrian Orthodox congregation at Holy Cross; for all consumed with worry. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* Bishop John; the Scottish Episcopal Institute: Principal, the Revd Dr Anne Tomlinson ; Director of Studies, the Revd Dr Mike Hull ; and its Students.

4. HYMN OF THE WEEK : Thine be the glory (NEH 120)

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, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

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

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

This is one of the most popular Easter hymns today, but for Scottish Episcopalians it is just a little bit ambiguous. It is a French hymn, 'A toi la gloire, O Ressuscité', written by Edmond Budry in 1884 and translated by Richard B. Hoyle in 1923 for a Christian Student hymnal. Hoyle was a Methodist who became a Baptist Minister, working for a while in Aberdeen, and, although deaf, he understood twelve languages and specialised in translating French hymns.

It is rooted in what is perhaps the earliest surviving writing on Christ's Resurrection, chapter 15 of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians which is read at Morning Prayer each day in Easter Week. The refrain is inspired by 1 Cor 15:57, 'thanks be to God who gives us the victory through Our Lord Jesus Christ', and verse two refers to 1 Cor 15:55, 'O Death, where is thy sting'. Like last week's poem by William Dunbar it is 'victory theology'. It is more than just a recalling of Scripture, though, as it draws us into the story.

The first verse tells what happened in Jesus' tomb before the women arrived, then in the second we ARE the women, with Christ greeting us 'risen from the tomb'. It makes the point that the Church is formed by the resurrection, 'if Christ be not raised... your faith is in vain' (1 Cor 15:14), because the resurrection leads directly to the Church singing hymns of gladness. The whole point of the Church is to form a people to praise God in this life and the next. Finally, in verse three, we are now the Apostle Thomas, 'no more we doubt thee', and we share in Christ's struggle and victory (Romans 8:37). This is done because we are baptised. When it says 'bring us safe through Jordan' it refers to our baptism which is symbolised by Joshua leading the Israelites through the waters of the Jordan River (Joshua 3-4). Origen wrote in about 240 AD: "once you come to the baptismal font and are initiated into the sacred mysteries then, through the ministry of the priests, you will cross the Jordan and enter the promised land".

So, this hymn brings us into the heart of the mystery of resurrection. Singing the glorious music means we actually *feel* it as well as simply knowing it. What then of the ambiguity? This glorious tune, Maccabaeus, was written by George Frideric Handel for his oratorio Joshua (1747) and later incorporated into his oratorio Judas Maccabaeus (1746), dedicated to the Duke of Cumberland. It was part of a series of works produced to celebrate the crushing of the 1745 Jacobite rebellion. As Scottish Episcopalians provided the majority of the Jacobite troops and our Church was persecuted for decades after the '45, it is not surprising that we might feel a little hesitant about the tune. As recently as 2009 there was a great stooshie when Handel's Judas Maccabaeus was chosen to open the Edinburgh Festival. But the music has now been so successfully co-opted to the Christian message that we should not hesitate to sing with gusto.

5. AFTERWORD : 'Easter' by George Herbert

Rise heart; thy Lord is risen. Sing his praise
Without delays,
Who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise
With him mayst rise:
That, as his death calcined thee to dust,
His life may make thee gold, and much more just.

Awake, my lute, and struggle for thy part
With all thy art.
The cross taught all wood to resound his name,
Who bore the same.
His stretched sinews taught all strings, what key
Is best to celebrate this most high day.

Consort both heart and lute, and twist a song
Pleasant and long:
Or since all music is but three parts vied
And multiplied;
O let thy blessed Spirit bear a part,
And make up our defects with his sweet art.

I got me flowers to straw thy way:
I got me boughs off many a tree:
But thou wast up by break of day,
And brought'st thy sweets along with thee.

The Sun arising in the East,
Though he give light, and th'East perfume;
If they should offer to contest
With thy arising, they presume.

Can there be any day but this,
Though many suns to shine endeavour?
We count three hundred, but we miss:
There is but one, and that one ever.