



# Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

Led by Simon McDowell

Please join in using the words in **bold**

Opening Hymn

"And can it be" by Charles Wesley

And can it be that I should gain  
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?  
Died He for me, who caused His pain?  
For me, who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! how can it be  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
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That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies!  
Who can explore His strange design?  
In vain the firstborn seraph tries  
To sound the depths of love Divine!  
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,  
Let angel minds inquire no more.

Amazing love! how can it be  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above,  
So free, so infinite His grace;  
Emptied Himself of all but love,  
And bled for Adam's helpless race:  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;  
For, O my God, it found out me.  
Amazing love! how can it be  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.  
Amazing love! how can it be  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
And clothed in righteousness Divine,  
Bold I approach the eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.  
Amazing love! how can it be  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

### Prayer of Preparation

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

We have come together in the name of Christ  
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,  
to hear and receive God's holy word,  
to pray for the needs of the world,  
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

## Prayers of Penitence

Jesus says, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand"  
So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.  
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.  
We have offended against your holy laws.  
We have left undone those things that we ought to have done;  
and we have done those things that we ought not to have done;  
and there is no health in us.  
But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners,  
Spare those who confess their faults.  
Restore those who are penitent,  
according to your promises declared to mankind  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life,  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse us from our sins,  
and restore us in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever.

**Amen**

## Song

"10,000 Reasons" the Orchestra of All Souls, Langham Place feat. Matt Redman,  
recorded at BBC Proms Praise 2015

### *Chorus:*

*Bless the Lord oh my soul*

*Oh my soul*

*Worship His Holy name*

*Sing like never before*

*Oh my soul*

*I'll worship Your Holy name*

The sun comes up  
It's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass  
And whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing when the evening comes

### *Chorus*

You're rich in love  
And You're slow to anger  
Your name is great  
And Your heart is kind  
For all Your goodness  
I will keep on singing  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

### *Chorus*

And on that day  
When my strength is failing  
The end draws near  
And my time has come  
Still my soul will  
Sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

### *Chorus x 2*

## Psalm

### Psalm 81 (New English Bible version)

Sing out in praise of God our refuge, acclaim the God of Jacob.

Take pipe and tabor, take tuneful harp and lute.

Blow the horn for the new month, for the full moon on the day of our pilgrim-feast.

This is a law for Israel, an ordinance of the God of Jacob, laid as a solemn charge on Joseph when he came out of Egypt.

When I lifted the load from his shoulders, his hands let go the builder's basket.

When you cried to me in distress, I rescued you; unseen, I answered you in thunder.

I tested you at the waters of Meribah, where I opened your mouths and filled them.

I fed Israel with the finest wheat-flour and satisfied him with honey from the rocks.

Listen, my people, while I give you a solemn charge –do but listen to me, O Israel:

you shall have no strange god nor bow down to any foreign god;

I am the LORD your God who brought you up from Egypt.

But my people did not listen to my words and Israel would have none of me;

so I sent them off, stubborn as they were,

to follow their own devices.

If my people would but listen to me, if Israel would only conform to my ways,

I would soon bring their enemies to their knees and lay a heavy hand upon their persecutors.

Let those who hate them come cringing to them, and meet with everlasting troubles.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen**

## Scripture Reading

John 20:19-31 read by Jennifer Pickering

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas (also known as Didymus<sup>[a]</sup>), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord!'

But he said to them, 'Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.'

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.'

<sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, 'My Lord and my God!'

<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'

<sup>30</sup> Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## Canticle

Known as the Jubilate, our canticle today, Psalm 100 is sung in Latin by the Rivertree Singers to an arrangement by Peter Anglea. Here is a translation:

- 1 O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.
- 2 Know that the Lord is God;  
it is he that has made us and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
- 3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and bless his name.
- 4 For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting,  
and his faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

*Psalm 100*

Sermon by Nigel Lowe

## The Creed

I believe in God, The Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Prayers

Prepared and read by John Wheatley

The response is:

In you O Lord ~ **Do we put our trust**

## The Lord's Prayer

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.

## The 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 the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen**

## Final Hymn

“Tell out my soul” recorded for BBC Songs of Praise at Arundel Cathedral

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of his word;  
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His holy name, the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
To children's children and forever more!



## The Blessing

Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord,  
to your faithful people pardon and peace,  
that they may be cleansed from all their sins  
and serve you with a quiet mind;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## Going Deeper

### Bible Notes

'Peace be with you' is an exhortation shared on several occasions throughout the Gospels, usually when there is great news about to be shared. This is not the quiet peace of the status quo, of life as normal; this is the disruptive yet reassuring peace that comes because Jesus is risen from the dead. It is the beginning of something new.

This also comes near the end of the Gospel where John shares the reasoning behind writing his account. The arc of this narrative then reaches from the first century right out to us: 'These are written so that you may come to believe...and that through believing you may have life in his name.' The purpose of this story pushes ever outwards, bringing life to the world through our response.

Thomas was unable to take someone's word for the resurrection but needed to touch and interact with Jesus in order to believe and declare, 'My Lord and my God!' In embracing Christ for themselves, the disciples were then able to go and share that invitation with others. We are invited to receive the embrace of Jesus for ourselves: what are we doing to help others receive and respond to that same invitation?



### Questions for reflection

- How would you feel about sharing this moment with someone?
- What practical difference does it make having accepted Jesus into your life?
- What experiences make you feel most 'at peace'?

A personal prayer

Let me feel the touch of peace and life, the touch of the risen Lord,  
beside me, behind me, and before me all the days of my life. Amen.

Live your faith

Are there people you have 'lost touch' with - either in general, or due to the current restrictions? Seek to renew a connection with someone this week; call and say 'Peace be with you'

Activity Sheet for children

If you have young people missing church as much as we are, Rootsontheweb, one of our regular sources of Bible Study notes, have made weekly downloadable resources available for non-subscribers. This week's sheet can be found here: [Children's Activity Sheet](#)

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