



**Broomhill Hyndland
Parish Church**

"Lighting the Way"

for **Easter Sunday 4 April 2021**

Happy Easter!!

A big thank you to all who have worked so hard to bring us to this blessed day. Easter is a time of new beginnings and, after the year we have had, we look on with hope that the lives of all will know newness and Resurrection.

My thanks also to Jill for the super work regarding our Holy Week booklet and Amanda as the Zoom host right through our services. Today, at Naseby, our service will be streamed, which will give you the chance to be there 'live' whilst worship is taking place and/or the opportunity to worship at another time.

In our prayers that reach far and wide, we remember the funeral of Celia Thompson which took place at the Linn Crematorium on Thursday.

The late, great actress and comedienne Elaine Stritch, in her one-woman show *Elaine Stritch at Liberty*, tells a lovely story about a five-year old actor called Brandon De Wilder. It's opening night for a Broadway show. All the grown-up actors are in their respective dressing rooms, shaking in their boots. Opening night is a big deal on Broadway. The stage manager calls over the tannoy, "Places!" A door opens and little Brandon comes out of his dressing room, skipping down the hall, knocking on all the grown-up actors' doors and shouting out in excitement, "It's time! It's time!"

Easter comes.

It's time to open the doors.

It's time to let the light in.

It's time to meet Jesus.

Happy Easter !

George



**Bookings for next Sunday (11 April) are open next Friday from
10am until 3pm. Telephone 07851 591 503.**

Sunday 4 April - Easter (Year B)

For those who follow all the lectionary readings for the Sunday and dip into the Old Testament and Epistles, the readings for this Sunday are: Acts 10: 34-43 or Isaiah 25: 6-9; Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11; John 20 : 1-18 or Mark 16: 1-8.

For those who miss the hymns I have added them in here: 410 Jesus Christ is risen today, alleluia; 413 The day of resurrection; 416 Christ is alive! 419 Thine be the glory. Our reflection will be based on Mark but please read and ponder the suggested Scripture and see how it connects and what it says to you.

Rest in His arms read, reflect, rejoice...

CALL

Surprising events.

He is not here.

The stone has been rolled.

He is not here.

The tomb, it lies empty.

He is not here.

The women have told us.

He is not here.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed.

Easter comes once more...

The empty tomb.

The rolled stone.

The pile of cloth.

(Pause)

The gardener.

The conversation.

The cry...

'Rabboni!'

Many have heard it all before.

Many wonder what more can be said.

But that's just it, Lord,

there is nothing new

for there is no need for anything new.

You are risen!

You are risen indeed!

From 'hosanna' to 'crucify' to 'Rabboni'

we have journeyed from death to resurrection,

from the pain, sorrow

and confusion of loss

to the joy, peace and hope

your resurrection brings!

We thank you for the joy of Easter,

for the message of hope it brings,

for the amazement we share

each and every time we hear it.

In a moment of quiet,
we bring before you the times
when we have acted like one of the crowd,
when we have been too timid to stand up for you, revelled in others,
when we have hidden behind closed doors
in fear of what others will think.

(Pause...)

On this Easter Sunday,
may we drop the chains that bind us to guilt.
May these burdens be lifted
as we go on forgiven, loved and free.
As we get on with celebrating
your victory over death,
be with us in our joy
as the alleluias ring out once more.
You are risen!
You are risen indeed!
Alleluia! AMEN.

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND LORD'S PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
we praise you that we can worship you
not simply as the Crucified Christ
but as our risen Lord and Saviour:
that death was not an end
but a new beginning,
not simply for you but also for us!
We praise you
for this time of joy, thanksgiving, rejoicing;
a time that speaks of victory, renewal and hope.
For the great message of Easter
that has spoken to countless people across the years,
and that continues to speak to us today,
receive our joyful and grateful worship.
Come among us now, in your risen power,
and send us out to proclaim your name
and live in your glory
in the light of your Easter triumph.
(The Lord's Prayer) saying together....

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 debts as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever, AMEN

Let us turn to God's Word, found in Mark 16: 1-8



'This is the Word of God. Thanks be to Him.'

Why don't you sing one of your Easter favourites if you are reading the Reflections or join the service being streamed and remember your hymn book!

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Lord Jesus Christ, may the message of your glorious resurrection continue to stir our hearts and change lives today, just as it has spoken to so many across the years. Teach us that the gospel not only sounds like good news – it is good news! AMEN

REFLECTION

"Do you like getting your money's worth?", a well-known company advertises and a burger and a roll appear on the scene.

I have watched the poor little girl at the swimming baths with a rubber glove on her head – because her Mother likes to get her money's worth;

or the carwash advert, where the car emerges with dishes and cutlery strapped to the roof – because the couple likes getting their money's worth;

or the girl who arrives back from her honeymoon wearing her wedding dress – because – she likes to get her money's worth.

I suppose you can understand it with a wedding dress that you are only supposed to wear once but I have known people who liked to have their money's worth – we all have. Those people who love an all-you-can-eat buffet! I had a brother-in-law who, though his car's petrol tank was on the right hand side, deliberately stopped at a petrol pump on the other side so that he could stretch the hose over the roof to make sure he got all the petrol he was paying for.

If you have paid for it, you use it 'til it is finished.

If you have paid for it, you want your money's worth.

Those in the adverts like things to be finished completely.

This morning I want you to focus on the reading from Mark. As you know, in Mark's version it is Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James, and Salome who come to the tomb on that first day and on their way there wonder how they will move that great stone in front of the tomb.

When they get there the stone has already been rolled away and glancing inside they see a man dressed in white who says, 'You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth. He is not here. Go and tell the disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him just as he told you.'

Normally, we would read from John's Gospel, for here in Mark there is no appearance of the Risen Lord. The women, after being told, are so bewildered and so amazed, so terrified, that, according to the story, they flee and tell nobody.

The story is incomplete.

It's unfinished, and like the adverts for this well known eating establishment with the capital M, those early Christian writers, realising that it is incomplete and unfinished, want their money's worth and try to finish the Gospel story for Mark. If you read on, there are shorter endings and there are longer endings,

some of them looking as if they have been pieced together from other accounts.

I like the idea that the way Mark wrote it and stopped at verse 8 is correct. Why does Mark end with women fleeing in terror?

According to reliable sources it was the composer Franz Liszt whose clever wife used to get him out of bed in the morning by playing the first seven notes of a scale on the downstairs piano: do re mi fa so la ti.... And then she would go back to the kitchen to finish cooking breakfast. Poor Franz would try to ignore it but finally he would have to throw on his robe, stumble down the stairs and play that last note: do!

But at least by then his breakfast would be ready.

There is something in all of us—not just composers—that craves resolution. Think of these adverts mentioned at the beginning: we want our money's worth; we want things to be complete; we dislike films, for example, that suddenly end with so many matters unresolved.

If we were allowed to sing and I sang 'Doe a dear, a female dear... ' you probably would sing 'Ray, a drop of golden sun.'

To the words, 'Che sera, sera'... I can hear you mumble, ' ... whatever will be will be.'

Here is a suggestion:

Mark ends it that way so that we have to finish the story.

Someone has tell the disciples and the others that Christ is Risen and that somebody is you, it's me, it's all of us.

Cleverly, Mark ends his story with the women saying nothing, so that, infuriatingly, because we want the joy of the Risen Lord to be spoken of and rejoiced, Mark says,

'Why don't you do it?'

Mark has spent his whole Gospel emphasising the fact that Jesus warns people not to say who he is, who he really is. He has asked people to remain silent, not to tell and now, at the end of the Gospel, to tell everyone.

"Do you like to get your money's worth?" asks the advert with the Scottish sounding name.

A name I never thought I would even hint at, on any Sunday especially, Easter Sunday!! We, most of us, are Scottish. Let's be honest, we like to get our money's worth. We like to get the full works.

I remember sitting with an empty whisky glass and before putting it down, rubbing the glass with my hands to warm the glass up. 'What are you doing?' said Pam. 'I'm getting the last drop out.'

It is not finished.

I'm eating that last bit of pasta and I have a bit of bread in my hand. I am about to say 'scarpetta' which in Italian which means to clean one's plate with the bread and I get a look – but it is not finished.

Jesus dies on the Cross and says, ' It is finished' and so it is, complete in the task and mission he set out to do but on the other hand, not finished because a new chapter has begun.

Mark's Gospel story is incomplete – that's the way it should be because it hasn't ended, it is, still, incomplete; it is partial.

This is our task – to tell that the ending is not an ending but a beginning; to tell that it is not an ending but a continuation of the story that you and I are part of.

Go, tell it on the mountains!

Go and shout it from the rooftops!

Go and share the story, live the story, for it will change lives and make the lives of others complete. The message changes the world... and it might even change the Church!!

The story of Christ is like the unfinished symphony- let's play the Good News!

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Mighty God of Resurrection power:

we so desperately need the "Alleluia!" morning!

we have lived with death for so long;

we have been locked down so long,

we could not be more anxious to hear the report from Mary, "I have seen the Lord!"

We know in our hearts

that you have been with us through all the past year has handed us,

and we have seen you in the generosity of heart

that has brought us through these days.

As we give back to you this day,

may we do so as those convinced

that light will always wash away darkness,

and life will always defeat death!

In the name of our risen Saviour, we pray. AMEN

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord Jesus Christ

come, stand among us.

Stand among us in your risen power,

that we might see You by our side,

that we might hear You call our names,

that we might now, on this heady day of joy,

be still, right now,

and know that You are God.

We give You heartfelt thanks from our full hearts.

We bring to You our prayers this day

for a world needing Easter.

We pray for those locked in by hurt,

and loneliness and grief.

We pray for those locked in by addiction,

and hunger, and poverty.

We pray that we,
inspired by Your Good News this Easter Day,
may bring our practical care and help to those who call out,
and to those who are silent,
and in our lived-out faith and love, show no partiality
as we bring what hope we can to those in need.

Today we pray for our nation, for our Queen,
and for those who shape the future of our country and our world.
In times of uncertainty make us confident with kindness.
In times of frustration, make us gentle with vision.
Help us to be the Easter people bringing light into our world.
Lord Jesus Christ,
for the Church we pray, that in our work and witness
we may be generous in our believing,
and joyful in our serving.
Help us to blend tradition and newness,
to keep our faith and work a power for good,
and a dynamic for reconciliation and renewal.
Yes, Lord,
help us spread the Good News,
the Unfinished Story that we are part of.

This Easter Day,
this new beginning, this time of lifting up,
lift up our heads and hearts,
lift up our eyes and voices,
for our Lord Jesus Christ is risen!
And there is hope!
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN

SENDING HYMN (Thine be the glory!)

BENEDICTION

May the loving power of God,
which raised Jesus to new life,
strengthen you in hope,
enrich you with his love,
and fill you with joy in the faith.

Go in Peace, and may the Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with you all, now and evermore.

AMEN

Or

BENEDICTION

There is no longer silence
because everything is full of alleluias.
Go into the world
and seek out the patterns of life
across all gravestones.
Step into tomorrow
knowing it has already been taken care of
and find the one beside you
who has made it all possible.
Go in Peace and Serve the Risen Lord.



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