

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020 Easter Sunday and Communion**

**Prepared by Hilary**

**Happy Easter Sunday everyone.**

**Our sermon later is brought to us by Ric Bowman of Frampton Park Baptist Church. The title is "The Greatest Story Ever Told" and he uses John chapters 20 and 21.**

**If you would normally take communion, please have ready some bread and wine or juice ready for later in the service.**

**Even though we're all in our different homes, let's worship together as one body of believers and I pray that the Holy Spirit will present with us all in a powerful way.**

**In the quietness, reflect on the following words of a song.**

**Allow your worship to grow.**

**Come to God with an open heart, full of wonder on this glorious day.**

**Christ is risen. Hallelujah.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ is King.**

**Risen now, exalted now, we sing.**

**Christ is King.**

**New life abounds, as morning sounds, death has lost its sting.**

**Christ is King.**

**New hope has come, through the risen Son, death has lost its sting.**

**Christ is King.**

**Allow these words to wash over your soul.**

**Bring your own worship to God.**

**Jesus is alive Let's sing and shout it.**

**Song: Hallelujah, Christ is risen from the grave**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMX9CNgRJCM>**

**Notices:**

**There's a hole in our roof!**

**Unfortunately, there are several holes, and they are letting in water. We have been advised to replace the whole roof as soon as possible to prevent further damage. It is beyond our means to pay for this at present so we are looking at a variety of solutions, including fundraising.**

**Please consider giving towards the roof repairs so that we can continue to tell and be good news in our community for the next 150 years. Thank you.**

**Have you seen this message on our website? It allows anyone to make a donation to VPBC for the new roof.**

**At a recent Church Members Meeting (CMM), we agreed to ask for loans from the London Baptist Property Board for £180,000 to be used to replace our leaking roof. I am delighted to say that we have been granted those loans and give thanks to God for his provision via**

the Baptist family. We need to pay this money back over a 10-year period.

We also agreed at the CMM to launch our Thank Offering today.

It is a tradition at VPBC, that we hold a Thank Offering every year, to give thanks to God for things in our lives and to raise funds for a specific project within our church. Last year, due to Covid, we decided not to open a Thank Offering. It will come as no surprise that the project we are raising money for is the new roof. This is the biggest building project VPBC has ever taken on and we need your help. We are aiming to raise £5,000 and praise God as we do so.

I am pleased to say that some people have already given via online banking and the Thank Offering has £190 at the moment. Details of our bank account will be given at the end of this service.

Please pray and ask God how much you should give. Please do not give more than you are able. The £1 offering is as welcome as the £100. Remember Jesus talking to his disciples about the 'Widows Mite' Mark 12:41-44, Luke 21:1-4.

This Thank Offering is in addition to our normal weekly offering. Many people give regularly via their bank accounts and I want to thank again, the people who support our church in this way. I also want to encourage others to join.

As we are not able to collect an offering at the moment please consider putting aside what you might usually put in the offering as part of your worship, and keeping it until you can bring it in to the church. Or use online banking for your offering.

We read in 1 John chapter 4 about the gift God has given us. The gift of both Jesus and the Holy Spirit and therefore, a relationship with God himself.

<sup>13-16</sup> This is how we know we're living steadily and deeply in him, and he in us: He's given us life from his life, from his very own Spirit.

Also, we've seen for ourselves and continue to state openly that the Father sent his Son as Saviour of the world.

Everyone who confesses that Jesus is God's Son participates continuously in an intimate relationship with God.

We know it so well, we've embraced it heart and soul, this love that comes from God.

Let's continue to praise together with our next song.

God so loved that he gave his Son, to lay down his life for the sake of us.  
Christ the Lord overcame the darkness.  
He's alive! Death has been defeated.

**Song:** Saviour of the world.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yfA4cxmOgTU>

Jesus is Lord of all.

**"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,**

<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.”  
Philippians 2: 9-11

**Song: We believe**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C\\_Z-tKOfGfM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_Z-tKOfGfM)

In Psalm 73: 23 -26, we hear God say

<sup>23</sup> Yet I am always with you;  
you hold me by my right hand.  
<sup>24</sup> You guide me with your counsel,  
and afterward you will take me into glory.  
<sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven but you?  
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.  
<sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart  
and my portion forever.

**Song: Holy Spirit living breath of God**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nbMfLQd2P4>

### **The Empty Tomb John 20 v1-18**

**20** Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. <sup>2</sup> So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

<sup>3</sup> So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup> as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. <sup>8</sup> Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

### **Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene**

<sup>11</sup> Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

**13 They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”**

**“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” 14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.**

**15 He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”**

**Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”**

**16 Jesus said to her, “Mary.”**

**She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).**

**17 Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”**

**18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.**

### **Jesus Reinstates Peter John21: 15 - 19**

**15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”**

**“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”**

**Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”**

**16 Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”**

**He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”**

**Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”**

**17 The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”**

**Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”**

**Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. 18 Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”**

**Talk: The greatest story ever told**

**<https://youtu.be/c10KWRB1DAc>**

**Let us move into a time of communion.**

**Amazing love, what sacrifice, that I might live.**

**Song: My Lord, what Love is this**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVgmdzQC16U>**

**Let us join in a prayer of thanks before we take communion.**

**In the presence of the risen Lord, we remember your broken body is my healing. Lord, your sacrifice has made me whole.**

**You were wounded for our wrongdoing, and we come to this communion table today with a heart full of humble thanksgiving, and in grateful remembrance of what you did for us at Calvary.**

**We confess we have not loved You as we ought, and we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves, so we ask that You cleanse us of all our wrongdoings and self-centred thoughts.**

**Thank You that we have been made clean by your sacrifice. Thank you that we can come into a relationship with you because you broke the chains of death and in your mercy made a way back to God our Father. You made a way by which we can be saved.**

**Renew our hearts and make us whole.**

**We praise Your name for ever and ever,**

**Amen**

**Take some time with Jesus - bring your own prayers as you continue to be in God's presence.**

**“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,**

**‘Take and eat; this is my body.’” Matthew 26 v 26**

**Take and eat the bread.**

**“Then Jesus took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’” Matt 26 v 26 & 27**

**Drink the wine as though we were together.**

**Jesus Christ my king. Let us praise your glory.**

**Song: What a beautiful name it is**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5L6QIAH3L4>**

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**Blessing:**

**Jesus came and stood among them and said,  
“Peace be with you!”**

**After he said this, he showed them his hands and side.  
The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.  
Again, Jesus said,  
“Peace be with you!  
As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”  
And with that he breathed on them and said,  
“Receive the Holy Spirit.”  
John 20: 19-22**