**Morning Worship Sunday 19th April 2020 Easter 2**

**Welcome and Introduction**

Good morning, thank you for joining me for this act of worship. There is a song to open worship and a virtual orchestra playing for us at the end, there are also two Bible readings this morning all of which you will find in the accompanying text on the website. Don’t forget that Sunday Club have plenty of activities prepared on their own page on our website(did you see their video last week?).

It is the Second Sunday of Easter and over the next few weeks we will be looking at living our lives in the light of the Resurrection.

**Call to Worship**

As God’s people we have gathered in God’s presence, separated by distance but united in God’s love, let us begin by a moment of quiet, settling our hearts and minds.

In the name of the Father…

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

We gather as people on a journey.

Speak to us, God!

Continue creating us!
Inspire our hearts.
Enlighten our minds.
Guide our actions. Amen.

**Our first song** **is**: **Crown Him with many crowns**

<https://youtu.be/3YJnVN6wdvI>

As we come to a **time of penitence,** In the light of Jesus, let us examine ourselves

*Keeping a short silence, reflecting on what you need to bring to the Lord to ask for His forgiveness*

and confess our sins together using this prayer

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession (inspired by John 20:19-31)

Creator God,

we confess that at times we are sceptics.

At times we doubt that You exist

because of the evil we have seen in the world.

Oppression, marginalization, and hate still plague our world,

and it is hard to see Your love and light.

Sometimes, even those who bear Your name

do not walk in Your ways.

Help us to see Your goodness in this world.

Help us to know Your love.

Fill us with Your love and goodness,

so that we might love one another,

and lift up one another in faith. Amen.

**Bible Reading Acts 2.14a, 22-32 Peter Addresses the Crowd**

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

22 ‘You that are Israelites,\* listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth,\* a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— 23this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. 24But God raised him up, having freed him from death,\* because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. 25For David says concerning him,
“I saw the Lord always before me,
   for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
   moreover, my flesh will live in hope.
27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
   or let your Holy One experience corruption.
28 You have made known to me the ways of life;
   you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”

29 ‘Fellow Israelites,\* I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. 31Foreseeing this, David\* spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah,\* saying,
“He was not abandoned to Hades,
   nor did his flesh experience corruption.”
32This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

**Gospel Reading Saint John 20.19-end Jesus Appears to the Disciples**

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ 20After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ 22When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. 23If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin\*), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ 27Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ 28Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ 29Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31But these are written so that you may come to believe\* that Jesus is the Messiah,\* the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**Homily**

I now hand over to our Reader, the Lay Licensed Minister, Suzanne for her thoughts on the Gospel reading

**We continue with a time of prayer**

Living God,
You appeared to your disciples in their hour of fear,
and offered them your peace to still their hearts.
May we open our arms
to be living hope in the world today,
bringing peace to those in living in fear.
Give us courage to be bold in what we believe;
may we hold firm to your promise of life and hope,
and strive for a new world, free from poverty, injustice and conflict.

**A Prayer as Things Get Harder:**
God of gentle presence,
you knew the ultimate separation
when on the cross Christ felt he was forsaken;
be with all who feel their Good Friday has come today.
Comfort those who have the virus.
Empower all who care for those in distress,
through medicine, acts of kindness or imaginative communication.
Be present to any who feel utterly alone,
without companion or health or hope.
Show us your face amid grief and bewilderment.
Inspire us to find new ways to be one with one another and with you.
And bring this time of trial to an end.
In Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Collect Second Sunday of Easter**

Risen Christ,

for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:

open the doors of our hearts,

that we may seek the good of others

and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,

to the praise of God the Father.

**We say together the Lord’s Prayer in whichever language or version you prefer**

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

 your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

**Notices**

You will know by now that in France we continue in lockdown until May 11th. We still do not know when we will be able to gather together to celebrate in the church building, so please keep an eye on our newsletter and website.

All of our gatherings happen on-line so please join in by asking church office for a link to the video Zoom meetings, we look forward to seeing you!

Suzanne has sent a poem on St Thomas for us as well:

A Sonnet for St. Thomas the Apostle

“We do not know… how can we know the way?”

Courageous master of the awkward question,

You spoke the words the others dared not say

And cut through their evasion and abstraction.

Oh doubting Thomas, father of my faith,

You put your finger on the nub of things

We cannot love some disembodied wraith,

But flesh and blood must be our king of kings.

Your teaching is to touch, embrace, anoint,

Feel after Him and find Him in the flesh.

Because He loved your awkward counter-point

The Word has heard and granted you your wish.

Oh place my hands with yours, help me divine

The wounded God whose wounds are healing mine

oh place my hands with yours, help me divine
the wounded God whose wounds are healing mine”

*Malcolm Guite*

**May I say thank you to everyone who continues to give to the church either online or by bank transfer? The building may be closed, but the mission of the church continues as we find new ways to reach out to everyone.** You may not be able to add to the collection plate, but you can still contribute using one of the methods on our [Giving page](https://christchurchlille.fr/about-us/donations/). It’s simple and it really helps, thank you.

I am very aware that some of us are struggling financially and with the time of lockdown, please do not hesitate to call me for a chat.

**Blessing**

May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,

fill you with his new life;

and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always.

See you next week!

**We close with……**

[**https://youtu.be/3eXT60rbBVk**](https://youtu.be/3eXT60rbBVk)