

# Easter Sunday

All Age Celebration



## **Welcome to St John's Church, Newbury (in the Benefice of South Newbury)**

This service of Holy Eucharist (also known as Communion or Mass) is for everyone. We hope you will value this opportunity to worship.

How much you want to participate is entirely up to you. Whatever your involvement, we hope you feel at home.

### **A number of traditions are represented at St John's**

We use our bodies in the 'drama of worship.' You may see people bowing at the name of Jesus, others making the sign of the cross. There is no obligation, but there is an invitation. Feel free to do what is comfortable for you.

All our senses are related to God in worship. **Incense** is used in our main Sunday Service and on other special occasions. It symbolises both the presence and grace of the Holy Spirit, and the prayers of worshippers rising to heaven. The aroma of incense reminds us also of the uncontainable mystery of God and the presence of Christ.

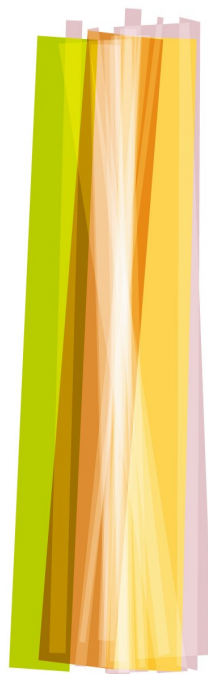
**Children are most welcome at our services**, especially the 10am Parish Communion. There are books and an activity table at the back of church and an opportunity to hear a story in the Parish Room. If you are bringing children to services, please let the Stewards know, and they will introduce you to a 'children's welcomer'.

And please don't worry, we understand that children make noise! It's a delightful sound to God and to us all.

**The Hearing Loop** is in operation for those using a hearing aid (set 'T').

### **The Benefice of South Newbury are Inclusive Churches**

This means we affirm and welcome everyone as a beautiful human person made in the image of God - which includes their sexuality, gender, race, dis/ability, ethnicity, diversity and whole-life story.



# The Welcome

Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

## Opening Hymn

Words of Welcome.

## Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The priest introduces the confession, silence is kept..*

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.  
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil  
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour,  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may serve you in newness  
of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*The priest pronounces the absolution*

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all  
your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**The Gloria** *(time to ring your bells!)*

Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to the Father.  
**Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to the Father.**

To him be glory for ever.  
**To him be glory for ever.**

Alleluia, amen. **Alleluia, amen.**  
**Alleluia, amen.**  
**Alleluia, amen.**

Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to Christ Jesus...  
Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to the Spirit...

**The Collect**

God of glory,  
by the raising of your Son  
you have broken the chains of death and hell:  
fill your Church with faith and hope;  
for a new day has dawned  
and the way to life stands open  
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
**Amen**

**First Reading**

*Then the Gospel book is taken to the centre of the church, we sing and  
we turn to face Gospel reading;*

**Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,  
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.**

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth.**

**Jesus has died and has risen.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,  
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.**

## **The Gospel Reading**

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;

I was dead, and behold

I am alive for evermore.

**Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The Gospel is read*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **Renewal of Baptism Vows and Statement of Faith**

In baptism God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life in him. Therefore, I ask:

Do you turn to Christ?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins?

**I repent of my sins.**

Do you renounce evil?

**I renounce evil.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*[The priest may remind you of your baptism!]*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*At the end we say:*

Merciful God,

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **The Peace**

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said,  
'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*Let us offer one another a sign of peace.*

## **Taking of the Bread and Wine**

Lord of life,

with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise.

As we are fed with the bread of heaven

may we know your resurrection power;

through Christ our risen Lord.

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;

in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away you did not reject us,

but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children  
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life

that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross  
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night that he was betrayed,

at supper with his friends,

he took bread, and gave you thanks,

he broke it and gave it to them, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, and said:  
Drink this all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,  
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine  
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world  
we offer you this sacrifice of praise  
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Rejoicing in God's new creation, let us pray with confidence;

**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 Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## **Agnus Dei**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## **Giving of Communion,**

*If you don't wish to receive communion, you are still welcome to come  
for a blessing, simply cross your arms so the presiding priest knows.*

## **Post Communion Prayer**

God of all Life,  
who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son  
to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection  
have delivered us from the power of our enemy:  
grant us to die daily to sin,  
that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood  
of your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

## **Notices**

### **Final Hymn**

Thine be the glory,  
risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the vict'ry  
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.

No more we doubt thee  
glorious Prince of Life;  
Life is naught without thee;  
aid us in our strife.  
Make us more than conquerors,  
through thy deathless love.  
Bring us safe through Jordan  
to thy home above.

### **The Blessing**

God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,  
open to you the gates of everlasting life.

**Amen.**

God the Son, who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious  
victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

**Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen  
Lord, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

**Amen.**

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

**Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the risen Lord

Alleluia, alleluia!

**In the name of Christ.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

*Refreshments are served after our services in The Parish Room.*

*Please do join us.*

*Christos Anesti*

Χριστός ανέστη!

**Christ is Risen!**

+

*Alithos Anesti*

Ἀληθῶς ανέστη!

**He has Risen Indeed!**

### **Benefice of South Newbury**

St John's Liturgy 2024

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South Newbury - St George, St John, St Michael