

Service for the Fifth Sunday of Easter



St Laurence Church, Downton

2 May 2021

Preparation

Call to Worship

Jesus says, I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vine-grower.

Every branch that bears fruit he prunes
to make it bear more fruit.

John 15:1-2

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.**

The Team Rector introduces the service

Hymn: Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour
(Chet Valley Churches)

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
first begotten from the dead,
thou alone, our strong defender,
liftest up thy people's head.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Jesus, true and living Bread!

Here our humblest homage pay we;
here in loving reverence bow;
here for faith's discernment pray we,
lest we fail to know thee now.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Thou art here: we ask not how.

Though the lowliest form doth veil
thee as of old in Bethlehem,
here as there thine angels hail thee,
branch and flower of Jesse's stem.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We in worship join with them.

Paschal Lamb, thine offering finished
once for all when thou wast slain,
in its fullness undiminished
shall forevermore remain.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Cleansing souls from every stain.

Life imparting heavenly manna,
stricken rock with streaming side,
heaven and earth with loud hosanna
worship thee, the Lamb who died.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Risen, ascended, glorified!

George Hugh Bourne (1840-1925)

Gathering:

We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.
We come because we seek to abide in Christ.

The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.
**We come because we long to be
spiritually vibrant, alive, productive.**

If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.
We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.

We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God:
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.
May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly. *Joanna Harade*

Affirmation:

Let there be no gap between us and Christ.
**For if there is any gap, immediately we perish.
For the building stands because it is cemented together.**

Let us not then merely keep hold of Christ,
**but let us be cemented to him.
Let us cleave to him by our works.**

He is the head, we are the body.
He is the foundation, we the building.

He is the vine, we the branches.

He is the bridegroom, we the bride.

He is the shepherd, we the sheep.

He is the way, we walk in it.

Again, we are the temple, he the indweller.

He is the only begotten, we the brothers and sisters.

He is the heir, we the heirs together with him.

He is the life, we the living.

He is the resurrection, we those who rise again.

He is the light, we the enlightened. Amen.

based on Homilies on First Corinthians, St. John Chrysostom

Affirmation:

Lord, we would grow with you

and bring forth fruit

that is pleasing to you

fed by your living water

giving sustenance to others

Lord, we would grow with you. **Amen.**

contemporary Welsh prayer

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings:

Acts 8:26-end

John 15:1-8

After each reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Music: Brother James' Air
(Choir of Clare College Cambridge)

Prayers

We are led in a time of prayer

This response is used:

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer is said:

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

Conclusion

The Collect

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death
and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,

so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Blessing:

May God the vine grower
tend you and make you fruitful;
May Christ Jesus abide in you
and give you life;
And may the Holy Spirit cast out all fear
and fill you with God's love;
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you,
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

You did not choose me but I chose you, says the Lord.
I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.
Alleluia.

John 15:16

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.