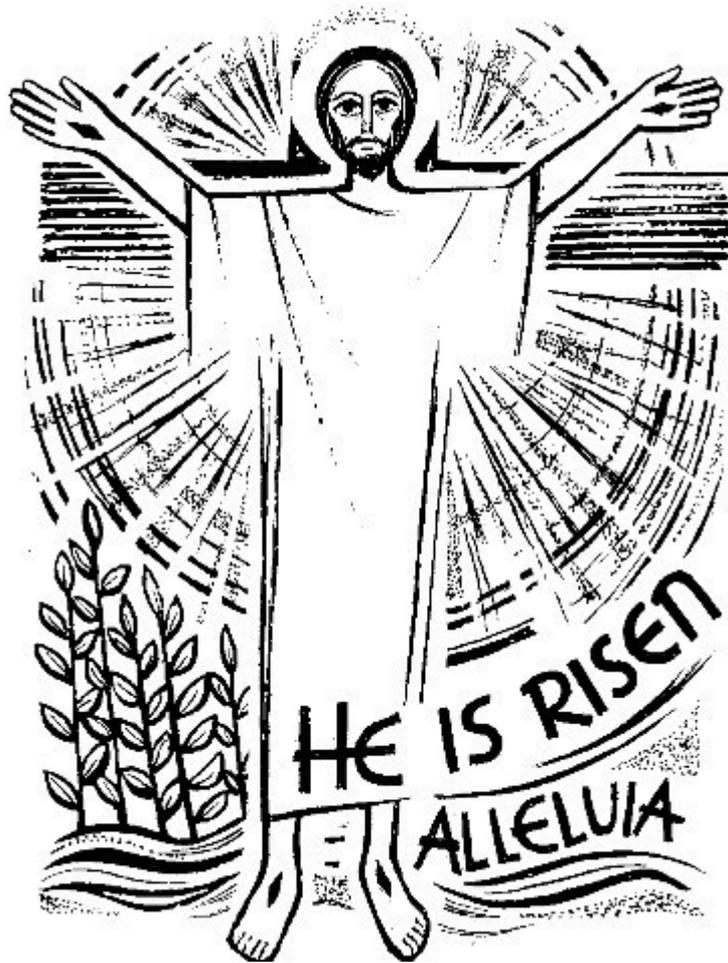


**The Parish Church
of
St. Edmund King and Martyr,
West Kingsdown**



An Order of the Eucharist
for the

Easter Season

The Gathering

Hymn: Come down O Love divine

Come down, O Love divine!
seek thou this soul of mine
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

There let it freely burn
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become my inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong
with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace
till he become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Introductory Sentence:

We gather here today to understand afresh God's love for each of us and for all people. At the beginning of this Christian Aid

Week, we seek to be inspired anew by God's transforming vision for our world, made possible by God's love for us and our love for each other.

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The Greeting:

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
and also with you.

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

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**

Prayers of Penitence:

God invites us who thirst to come to the waters, us who are hungry to find food without price, yet we look elsewhere for satisfaction. In the search to find satisfaction for ourselves, we ignore the hunger and thirst of many, locally and around the world.

We have not drawn close to know God's love for us.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We have not recognised God's love for all people, each one a beloved child of God.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

With our limited imagination, we have not grasped God's vision for a world where all will flourish.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Absolution:

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to a new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis:

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.**

The Collect:

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us
to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

New Testament Reading: Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, 46 for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 47 "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" 48 So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading: John 15:9-17

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹² This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another".

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily:

May I speak in the name of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit and may he place into your hearts this day what is missing in my words. Amen.

I wonder between us just how many songs we could list with the word love in their title. Perhaps you have a favourite one that reminds you of a particular occasion. Of course, much will depend on the music era you were brought up in, unless like my husband you have a very eclectic taste in music which includes some of the most modern and up to date trends and titles.

Without getting too personal about age if you're in your sixties or over, you might think of one of Elvis's hits from the nineteen fifties, such as "Love Me Tender", or "I Can't Help Falling in Love with You", or maybe Nat King Cole's classic "When I Fall in Love".

If your formative years were the nineteen sixties, hits such as the Beatles' song "All You Need is Love" might spring to mind.

What others I wonder can you think of? Here's just a few that came to mind for me.

Supremes' – "Stop in the Name of Love"

Stevie Wonder – "Just Called to say I Love You."

Donna Summer – "Love to Love You Baby"

Bee Gees – "How Deep is Your Love?"

Whitney Houston "I'd Do Anything for Love."

The list I'm sure could go on.

Jesus' beautiful words from today's Gospel reading have a lovely musical quality to them and form a kind of hymn to love. How truly wonderful to be invited to abide in love. Of course, there is a problem if we try to compare the words spoken by Jesus to those found in the songs I have just listed. All the songs I have spoken of refer almost exclusively to a romantic love and have very little to do with the love Jesus is talking about.

Love in any shape or form is important. Many of the hymns we sing, (when we are allowed to that is) speak of love, God's love for us, I am instantly reminded of the hymn 'How deep the Father's love for us, How vast beyond all measure or of our love for God, and our love for others. We began our worship today by listening to the hymn "Come down, O love divine" where the words speak of seeking out God's love in our lives.

"Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing".

We focus in on God, seeking his love in our lives just as we need to very intentionally and prayerfully focus in on Jesus' words about love spoken in our gospel reading. If we don't do this we risk treating the beautiful text from John like all the other popular songs we hear rather romantically, even somewhat flippantly.

I wonder how many times in our life we have read or heard these words from scripture, 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love', and given them only a fleeting, a transitory glance and thus missing their full impact? I think we might do this for two reasons. Firstly because of our definition of love – although they are not mutually exclusive, there are in fact two types of love, romantic love, the type that we associate with our pop songs of earlier and what can be described as "agape" love, a word not used often enough nowadays, a word that describes the quality of unconditional, compassionate love, the kind of love that Jesus' is describing in John's gospel.

Secondly the love that Jesus describes defies description and has to be experienced first-hand. Most of us do experience it,

albeit in tiny glimpses, and only in those moments when we completely surrender our self. Only in these rare moments, when we are obeying Jesus' commandment to connect with other people, are we fully connected with ourselves. This often involves the initial effort of overriding our instinctively selfish impulses, impulses that we all have because we are human, but if we can reach beyond, we find ourselves in a state of love which is effortless, joyful, dynamic and peaceful.

None of this means there's anything wrong with romantic love. Indeed, the bond between two people sharing their lives is a gift from God, but we need to reach beyond the romantic love and seek out the real love of God that Jesus speaks of today. The love that he has for each and every one of us far surpasses anything that we can imagine. It is about letting go and submitting to God, something that I, at times, find very difficult, I like to be in control of my life but if we are able to let go of things in our lives and submit totally to God's love, the rewards are amazing. So let us wake ourselves up today and make a point of focusing on the thing which is the core of Jesus' message.

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and your joy may be complete".

"This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you".

This is such a simple command and yet so difficult. We have to let go of our differences, our prejudices, our instinct to hold things tight to ourselves. Following this command is possible when we take the second part of the command – "as I have loved you" – seriously. When we know that we are loved, we can let go of defending ourselves and are able to love others. Amen

The Creed:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from
heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the
Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We
believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen**

Let us pray.

Prayers of Intercession:

We are commanded to love others as we have first been loved ourselves. So let us bring ourselves and the needs of our world before God.

Blessed are you, Lord God, who through your Son has revealed your great love for us and in his resurrection gave us a Friend and Saviour. We rejoice in your presence this day with the joy and the freedom of the children of God. Blessed are you, our God for ever.

As you have called us to be friends, to reveal your love and the joy of your presence, we come with sorrow for the divisions of the Church and the world. We seek forgiveness for rivalry and disunity within the Church. Lord, strengthen us in love and lead us to a unity that reflects that we are one in you. May any divisions within our community be healed and well-being restored.

Lord, as you love us,

Help us to love one another.

We come before you as part of a world caught up in violence, war, hatred, greed and hunger. There are people who are oppressed and treated as slaves. There are people who are counted as nothing, rejected and unloved. Lord, forgive us and change us. Strengthen all who work for the peace and well being of all. May we share in the care of all suffering people.

Lord, as you love us,

Help us to love one another.

We give you thanks for all our loved ones, for their generosity and sacrifice for us. We remember all who feel unloved and unwanted. We pray for homes where there is hatred or violence, where there is little respect for each other, where there is neglect. We ask your blessing upon all who have been taken into care.

Lord, as you love us,
Help us to love one another.

Lord of love, we remember before you all who are lonely. We ask your blessing upon those who are ill or injured. In the silence of our hearts we pray for those known to us..... and by name those on our prayer list David Jackson, Steve Gray, Seb Sullivan, Angie Skinner, Seamus McGeoghan, Edna Jones, Doris Healey, Alison, Spencer, Val, Morris, Barbara Arundel, Greta Chesney, Angela Beale, Joy Johnson, David Mullen, Kim Johnstone, Marion & Brian Dethridge, Julie, David Clegg, Ron White, Tatiana Crosby, Edith Lewis, Brian Collier, Rosemary Griffith and Sarah.

Lord, as you love us,
Help us to love one another.

We rejoice in your saving love and that you have called us to eternal life. We remember loved ones departed from us. As we give thanks for their friendship we pray that they may know you as their friend in your eternal kingdom. We especially remember Elise Elliott, Stella Shead, Greame Bieth and Reg Endres. We remember too those whose anniversary of death occurs in May, John Jupp, Doreen Blundell, Malcom Bain, Eric Dimmick, John Guyver, Terry Hopgood, Jean Lultrell, Bill Hudson, Norman Whiting, Robert Goy and Denis Sharman.

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sharing the Peace:

Let us greet each other in the knowledge that each of us is a child of God.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you

Preparation of the Table:

Risen Lord Jesus Christ,
we believe you, and all we have heard is true.
When you break bread
may we recognise you as the fire that burns within us,
that we may bring light to your world. **Amen.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness
we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness
we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.
Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharist Prayer:

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

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 indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.
And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory.

**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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same, way after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,

in remembrance of me.

Jesus Christ is Lord

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.**

You are the Saviour of the world.

And so, Father calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once
for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving.

we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of St. Edmund
and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer:

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**

Breaking of 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 the one bread.**

**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.**

Giving of Communion:

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

**We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs
under your table.**

**But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to
drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.
Amen**

*During Communion we will listen to 'Be still for the presence of
the Lord', 'You are the vine', and 'There is a redeemer.'*

*For those of you sharing with us at home you are invited to
make your own Act of Spiritual Communion*

An act of Spiritual Communion

**My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most
Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and desire
to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this
moment receive You sacramentally, come at least
spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were
already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never
permit me to be separated from You.**

Prayer after Communion:

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns now and forever. 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.**

The Dismissal

Hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassion's, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.

Refrain

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see.

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
(*Refrain*)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

(Refrain)

The Blessing:

We are the beloved children of God.
As the branches are to the vine, so we are to Christ.
May we go out rejoicing in God's love,
Spreading that love wherever we go this week.
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Sending Out:

The Eucharist has ended.
Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Acknowledgements

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