



**Easter Sunrise Service
St Mary's Church Shirehampton**

Welcome

We light our Easter fire.

The risen Lord says, "Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last. I am the Living One. I was dead but now I am alive for evermore, and I hold the keys of death and death's domain." (Rev. 1:17-18).

Opening prayer

Lord of life and conqueror of death,
we come before you this Easter morning.
You know our worries, our limitations, our fears.
We come as we are.
Speak to us as you spoke to Mary that first Easter morning;
for your glory's sake.

Amen.

Hymn – In Christ alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought & storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Confession

Lord, when we have doubted you.

Lord, forgive us

When we have disowned you.

Lord, forgive us

When we have denied you.

Lord, forgive us

When we have forgotten your victory.

Lord, forgive us

The Lord of Life declares,

“I forgive you, for I have come that you may have life, life in all its fulness.”

Thanks be to God. Amen.

THE RESSURECTION GOSPEL – John 20: 1 - 18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?”

Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Reflection

Marking the Easter Candle

The minister holds the candles and mark the cross:

As the vertical of the cross is traced the president says
Christ, yesterday and today,

As the horizontal is traced the president says
the beginning and the end,

As the Alpha is traced
Alpha

As the Omega is traced
and Omega,

As the first number of the year (2) is traced the president says
all time belongs to him,

As the second number (0) is traced
and all ages;

As the third number (2) is traced
to him be glory and power,

As the fourth number (6) is traced
through every age and for ever.

Amen

The Five Wounds of Christ

As a stud is inserted at the top of the vertical the president says

By his holy

As a stud is inserted at the intersection

and glorious wounds

As a stud is inserted at the foot of the vertical

may Christ our Lord

As a stud is inserted at the left end of the horizontal

guard us

As a stud is inserted at the right end of the horizontal

and keep us. Amen

Blessing the Easter Candles

As the Easter Light is lit, we pray

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light,
set us aflame with the fire of your love,
and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia

We cheer and make glad sounds!

Let us affirm our faith together

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

We 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?

We 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?

We 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.

Let us affirm our commitment together

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil and,
whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will

HYMN - THINE BE THE GLORY

Thine be the glory
risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory
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 has lost its sting.

Thine be the glory...

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;
Lead us in Thy triumph
to Thy home above.

Thine be the glory...

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

Closing Prayer & Blessing

Lord Jesus, we rejoice in your mighty power which brings life out of death,
joy out of grief, hope out of despair.

May we truly live in the light of your resurrection
and know that you are alive now and always! Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you
and all whom you love this Easter day and for evermore.

Amen.