



Diocese of Ely
THREE RIVERS GROUP
Chippenham, Fordham, Isleham, Kennett, Snailwell

Trinity 3, Sunday 28th June 2020

Opening Music: Elgar: *Chanson de Matin*. David Poulter, organ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjB0q0jO4kE>

(Melody: Gwalchmai) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBkzACo3fbw>

King of glory, King of peace, I will love Thee;
and that love may never cease, I will move Thee.
Thou hast granted my request, Thou hast heard me;
Thou didst note my working breast, Thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art I will sing Thee,
and the cream of all my heart I will bring Thee.
Though my sins against me cried, Thou didst clear me;
and alone, when they replied, Thou didst hear me.

Sev'n whole days, not one in sev'n, I will praise Thee;
in my heart, though not in heav'n, I can raise Thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort to enroll Thee:
e'en eternity's too short to extol Thee.

Confession

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

May your loving mercy come to me, O Lord,
and your salvation according to your word:
Lord, have mercy.

Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light to my path:
Christ, have mercy.

O let your mercy come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight:
Lord, have mercy.

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

Collect

God our saviour, look on this wounded world in pity and in power; hold us fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Readings

A reading from the book of Ezekiel (3.22-end)

Then the hand of the LORD was upon me there; and he said to me, Rise up, go out into the valley, and there I will speak with you. So I rose up and went out into the valley; and the glory of the LORD stood there, like the glory that I had seen by the river Chebar; and I fell on my face. The spirit entered into me, and set me on my feet; and he spoke with me and said to me: Go, shut yourself inside your house. As for you, mortal, cords shall be placed on you, and you shall be bound with them, so that you cannot go out among the people; and I will make your tongue cling to the roof of your mouth, so that you shall be speechless and unable to reprove them; for they are a rebellious house. But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD'; let those who will hear, hear; and let those who refuse to hear, refuse; for they are a rebellious house.

Psalm 125

1 Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides for ever.

2 As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people, from this time on and for evermore.

3 For the sceptre of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, so that the righteous may not stretch out their hands to do wrong.

4 Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts.

5 But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways the LORD will lead away with evildoers. Peace be upon Israel!

A reading from Acts of the Apostles (12.1-11)

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. After he saw

that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.' Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

A reading from St. Matthew's Gospel (16.13-19)

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

Sermon (with thanks to Sue Potts) <https://youtu.be/Q18N71WIP1g>

Today we commemorate Peter, Patron Saint of our church in Snailwell and, along with St Mary Magdalene, Patron Saint of our church in Fordham.

For many Christians St Peter is the most well-known and well-loved disciple of all. You may, at some time, like to see how many facts about his life and his relationship with Jesus you can remember from key passages in the Gospels and the Book of Acts, such as the time beside the Sea of Galilee when Jesus called

Simon (as he was first known) and his brother Andrew, to follow him. (Mark 1:16-17) Or his witnessing Jesus walking on water and his eagerness to do the same before fear and doubt overcame him. (Matthew 14: 22-31)

Today's Gospel is another of those 'key' passages in Peter's life, sometimes referred to as 'the great confession of Peter'. The moment when Jesus asks of his disciples. 'Who do you say that I am?'

Imagine being faced with that question! I can picture the disciples grappling with this, agog, lost for words, needing time to reflect, for how could they begin to explain this incredible person? They have witnessed his remarkable teaching and audacious crossing of social and religious barriers to connect with foreigners, tax collectors and women and men of low status, They have been witness to miraculous physical healings and healings of the mind; his stilling of the storm; walking on water; his blessing of a few morsels of food to feed 5,000 + folk., hungry for his word as well as for food. They have heard other folk describe Jesus as 'John the Baptist, 'Elijah', 'Jeremiah' or 'One of the prophets' but now Jesus is asking them directly,

'Who do you say that I am?'

and what follows for Peter is a 'eureka' moment; a flash of truly divine inspiration that causes him to boldly declare,

'You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God!'

Peter must have felt elation at that point, and yes, there is no doubt that he answered well; for it had dawned on him that Jesus was more than a Rabbi, more than a prophet. Here was the long-promised Messiah of God, the Anointed one, the Chosen one, the one who would bring justice and deliver God's people from oppression. And Jesus responds,

'Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah, For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it'

Peter's passionate, heartfelt, confident response is inspiring, but it was only much later, in the context of a very long, arduous and painful journey, the way of a learner, 'a path of both grace and sin', to quote Pope Francis, that Peter came to fully understand the answer he gave. For his journey would take him from the certainty of that day of declaration to the despair of that fateful night of denial when, at The Last Supper Jesus predicted of Peter:

'This very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times',

Peter, affronted and shocked, affirmed his allegiance,

'Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you'.

Yet in the terror and fear of that same night, after thrice denying his Lord, heard the cock crow and remembered, and wept bitterly. (Matthew 26: 31-75)

Imagine the lingering guilt and shame and disillusionment that he would carry through the horrors of the crucifixion and which, no doubt, would continue to weigh heavily beneath those mixed and heady emotions of elation and excitement and bewilderment on the day of resurrection. The weight of remorse and inner turmoil that he would, surely, still have felt even when Jesus, still bearing the wounds of crucifixion, appeared amongst his disciples and uttered 'Peace be with you'...

'Who do you say that I am?'

'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'

I wonder if that momentous exchange came back to Peter's mind when he and a small group of disciples witnessed another post-resurrection appearance of Jesus, this time by the Sea of Galilee? (John 21: 1-19). For it was there, by the waters where Jesus had first summoned Peter, that he took him to one side and three times asked of Peter the searching question,

'Simon, Son of John, do you love me?'

After all that had happened along the way, it must have been difficult for Peter to pluck up the courage to lift his head and meet the steady gaze of the One who asked this of him, but in doing so, in facing Jesus eye to eye, heart to heart, and in each utterance,

'Yes Lord, you know I do',

Peter came to fully understand the answer he had given at the very start of his journey with Jesus. Here was the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, sent to deliver God's people not through might and power, but through compassion and understanding and mercy. Here was the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, who knew Peter's many faults and failings - and yet, *and yet!!* still loved him utterly, completely, unconditionally. Here was the Messiah, the Son of the living God willing not only to forgive him, but to reinstate and reaffirm him as the rock upon which the church would be built.

Jesus' companions would later, at the Feast of Pentecost, open their hearts and minds to the transforming work of the promised Holy Spirit. It was then that Peter, full of all he had learnt from the life and example of his Lord, found himself emboldened to preach and proclaim and live out the Gospel of love and hope and redemption in a remarkable way which he followed to the very end.

Pope Francis described Peter's faith journey as 'A path of both grace and sin'. And that is why, through the ages, so many have found they can relate to him, and why, in our present times of turmoil and uncertainty his faith story resonates with our own. At times so sure; at other times uncertain. At times truly inspired and enlightened, yet at others confused & bewildered. Full of good intentions one minute and failing the next. Believing yet doubting. At times full of courage and

hope, at others, full of fear. But above all, Peter's story inspires us as one of true discipleship; of the willingness to learn. Of having the honesty to own one's failings and fears and mistakes, and the humility to learn from them. Of opening oneself to new ways of thinking and new patterns of life. Of striving to walk with Jesus and to be open to the transforming work of the Spirit in every area of one's life. Of showing faith through care and service and acts of compassion and love. Of keeping the faith; of not giving up, even when the going gets tough and doubt and despair loom large. Of being reassured of God's amazing grace even when, in times of isolation, guilt and shame and remorse and unworthiness may weigh heavy upon the heart. Of finding time to sit at Jesus' feet; simply to be in his presence; to draw close and allow his love to enfold and surround. To feel utterly safe and secure in His love whatever life brings, so that we, like Peter, can truly declare,

'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'

And we, too, may continue to 'Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord' (2 Peter 3:18), faithful to the very end.

Hymn: (Melody: Sagina) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQeIGbKqiW8>

And can it be that I should gain An int'rest in the Saviour's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be That Thou, my God, should die for me?

He left His Father's throne above, So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love, And bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free; For, O my God, it found out me.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray, I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne, And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Nicene 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.

Intercessions *(with thanks to Daphne Wilding)*

Jesus said,
'Upon this rock I will build my church'.
Giving thanks, Father, for the life of St Peter and all those earthly saints who have
shaped our lives, and for those we journey with now.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all Christian ministries, both ordained and lay. For Justin, our
Archbishop; Stephen, Bishop of Ely; Dagmar, Bishop of Huntingdon.
For the Ministry Team in The Three Rivers Group, David, Sue, Anna, Carol and
Mark. For mutual love and respect across all denominations, so we learn from one
another. For those at present testing their vocation. For Mel as she studies at
Westcott House, and Peter her husband. For Anna and all those whose ordination

has been postponed, that, as they wait at this time, they will be at peace, and be able to rejoice together when ordained as priests and deacons.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Father, we pray for all who work in our hospitals, hospices and clinics, and for all patients in their care. For all those who are feeling harassed, worried, and long for peace of mind. For the work of The Samaritans at a time when a huge number of people are turning to them and the NHS because the Coronavirus pandemic has magnified pain, distress and feelings of loneliness and isolation.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For all refugees searching for a place of safety; all who are innocent victims of war or escaping political or religious oppression. For those who were homeless and have been in hotels and B&B's during this time of lockdown. As the rules change, we pray for the government, local councils, charities and agencies, that they may work to find these people a home and ongoing support. May your love work through them, and us, the body of Christ, to reach out to those in desperate need and give new hope. Open our ears and our eyes to the needs of those around us.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Father, we long for healing and wholeness to come to all who suffer.

We pray for all who are searching, that they may realise you are there next to them and that you hear their prayers. We pray they will know the comfort of your presence.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died and those who are about to die, that your Word of life may uplift them on their journey and bring them safely into your heavenly kingdom. Father, comfort those whose hearts are aching at the loss of loved ones, that they may know your healing touch. We commend them all to your love .

Merciful Father, Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Anthem after Prayers

Tu es Petrus, R Pearsall (Text: Thou art Peter, and upon this rock shall I build my church.) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-POHDPI3dl>

Reflection

At the point in our service where we would usually be remembering the Last Supper together, we pause to pray for those with whom we would usually be receiving bread and wine in church. Quietly think of each of those in church, those you know well and know what to pray for them and those you know less well and

are unsure of how to pray. Perhaps at this point you would like to eat some bread and drink something. We are reminded that although separated at this time we are still members together of the body of Christ.

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.

Final Hymn: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0LA3GvAUGU>

There is a redeemer, Jesus, god's own son,
Precious lamb of god, Messiah, Holy one,

Thank you oh my father, For giving us your son,
And leaving your spirit, 'til the work on earth is done.

Jesus my redeemer, Name above all names,
Precious lamb of god, Messiah, Oh, for sinners slain. Thank you oh my father....

When I stand in glory, I will see his face,
And there I'll serve my King forever, In that holy place. Thank you oh my father..

Alternative Hymn: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQkzHwz2eLE>

I will offer up my life in spirit and truth
Pouring out the oil of love, as my worship to you
In surrender I must give my every part
Lord, receive this sacrifice of a broken heart

Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring
To so faithful a Friend, to so loving a King?
Saviour, what can be said, what can be sung
As a praise of Your name for the things You have done?
Oh, my words could not tell, not even in part
Of the debt of love that is owed by this thankful heart

You deserve my every breath, for You've paid the great cost
Giving up your life to death, even death on the cross
You took all my shame away, there defeated my sin

Open up the gates of heaven and have beckoned me in

Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring.....

We'll bring an offering, unto You an offering

What can I, what can I, what can I sing as an offering, Lord?

I want to please Your heart

What can I give, what can I bring, what can I sing as an offering, Lord?

What can I give, what can I bring, what can I sing as an offering, Lord?

What can I bring to the King of kings?

Oh, what can I give, what can I bring, what can I sing as an offering, Lord?

Simply this I will offer up my life in spirit and truth

Pouring out the oil of love, as my worship to you

In surrender I must give my every part

Lord, receive this sacrifice of a broken heart

Lord, receive this sacrifice of a broken heart

Lord, receive this sacrifice of a broken heart

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Closing Voluntary: Prelude in C major BWV 45, J S Bach. David Poulter, Organ.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SfemFAzzATo>

Notices

Virtual Coffee Morning

We continue our weekly Isleham Coffee Morning virtually between 10.30-11.30am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5147034674?pwd=VU1ZK0VwakZwRjJJdURkekxONmh6dz09>

Meeting ID: 514 703 4674 Password: 2806

Exploring the Eucharist

It's wonderful that we're going to be able to gather together for worship again soon. Many of us will have missed taking communion over recent weeks, so it'll be good to share the eucharist again, albeit in a modified way for a while.

The Church of England's *Pilgrim* course on the Eucharist offers an opportunity explore some of the meaning of this familiar and comforting, but also deeply mysterious sacrament. Join us on **Fridays** at **10.30am** (via Zoom – details below) from **3 July** to discover more. The course runs for 6 sessions, and follows a booklet

which is available to buy direct (with ebook option) from here:

[http://www.pilgrimcourse.org/books/the-eucharist-\(book-6\)](http://www.pilgrimcourse.org/books/the-eucharist-(book-6)), or via Revd Anna.

Please let Revd Anna know if you plan to join the course so she can send you the Zoom link (revdannajones@gmail.com / 07751 032166)

Mothers' Union – Praying together by phone

For those MU Branch members and friends who would like to join together to pray while our usual meetings are suspended, we'll be hosting another brief time of prayer **by telephone** at **11am** on **Thursday 2nd July**. You don't need a computer or any other fancy equipment to take part in this, just yourself and a regular telephone. Here's what to do:

- Just before 2pm on Thursday 2nd July, dial the following number on your telephone: **0203 481 5240**
- A nicely-spoken recorded voice will answer and ask you for the meeting number
- Type the following number in to your telephone keypad: **839 2560 0492**
- This should connect you through to the shared conversation.
- Say hello to let us know you've arrived!

If you have any trouble connecting, or would like to know more, please contact Revd Anna on 07751 032166.

Black Lives Matter Course

As a deanery we are planning to put on a 4 session course on the theme of Black Lives Matter, in which we hope to explore issues around race within church and society, listening to experience, looking at history, thinking about representation and leadership and pondering what our next steps might be towards eliminating racism in all forms. Initially we will be running this virtually. If you are interested in joining in with this please let David know. Running for four Thursdays starting 9th July at 7.30pm.

Worship in Church

You may have heard that the government announced that public worship will be able to start again from the 4th July. We hope to be able to hold worship in our churches at the usual times beginning on the 5th July. There is a joint PCC meeting to discuss what arrangements will be made on Tuesday evening. We will be considering the following three questions:

- **"What about church provision has been good in lockdown"**
- **"What have we missed about worshipping together?"**
- **"What do we need to think about before starting worship in our building?"**

If you would like to send in answers before the meeting we will consider them as part of our discussions.

At least initially we will be continuing to distribute a service like this one each week, particularly for those who will be unable to join us in person.

Wednesday Compline

We continue to invite people to pray virtually together on Wednesday Evenings between 7pm-7.30pm. Please email a member of the Ministry Team if you're not on the mailing list for the service sheet and would like to be.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83970346065?pwd=WEhpclBxYWp5aUpuOFZtZ0cyUU^{NRQT09}> Meeting ID: 839 7034 6065 Password: 003793

Intercessions: Funeral (Please note close family only allowed to attend)

Donald Brown (Isleham) Thursday 25th June 1.30pm West Suffolk Crematorium.
Ruth Heseltine (Fordham) Date and time to be confirmed

Three Rivers Ministry Team

Rector: The Rev'd David Cleugh 723010 davidrcleugh@gmail.com

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www.threeriversgroup.co.uk

Social Media Facebook: @thethreeriversgroup Youtube:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_xNAa4zgNZrE8ImizNC_3g