Christian communities in the heart of Hastings

Order of Service for the Fourth Sunday of Easter 11th May 2025

Eucharistic Liturgy - Thanksgiving of the People of God commencing on page **404** ANZPB/HKMOA

Presider: Grace and peace to you from God.

God fill you with truth and joy.

Opening Hymn: That Easter Day with joy was bright

Words / Translator: J M Neale - Worship [4th Ed.] #514

Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR [CP49]

1 That Easter day with joy was bright; the sun shone out with fairer light when, to their longing eyes restored, the apostles saw their risen Lord!

- 2 His risen flesh with radiance glowed; His wounded hands and feet he showed. those scars their solemn witness gave that Christ was risen from the grave.
- O Jesus, King of gentleness, with constant love our hearts possess that we may give you all our days the tribute of our grateful praise.
- 4 O Lord of all, with us abide in this our joyful Easter-tide; from every weapon death can wield Your own redeemed forever shield.

All praise to you, O risen Lord, now both by heaven and earth adored; to God the Father equal praise, and God the Spirit, now we raise!

The Presider may greet the people informally before continuing

Page **405**: Almighty God ...

Glory to God in the highest ...

Page **406**: Hear the teaching of Christ ...

Page **407**: Hear God's word to all ...

Page **408**: The peace of Christ ...

Sentence: The Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,

and will guide them to the springs of the water of life, and God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Revelation 7:17

Collect: God of peace,

by the blood of the eternal covenant

you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,

that great shepherd of the sheep;

make us perfect in every good work,

and work in us that which is pleasing and good;

through Jesus Christ to whom be glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

Acts 9: 36-43

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23 (ANZPB)

- The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.
- You Lord make me lie down in green pastures: and lead me beside the waters of peace.
- You revive my spirit: and guide me in right pathways for your names sake.
- Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for you are with me, your rod and your staff are my comfort.
- You spread a table for me in the sight of my enemies: you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is overflowing.
- Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Reading: Revelation 7: 9-17

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn: Come and find the quiet centre

FFS10(i) - Words: Shirley Erena Murray Tune: **Lewis** [Gaelic] Folk Melody - Arr. © John Bell

1 Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead, find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:

Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

- 2 Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base, making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun, raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.
- open to each other's pain,
 let our loves and fears unravel,
 celebrate the space we gain;
 there's a place for deepest dreaming,
 there's a time for heart to care,
 in the Spirit's lively scheming
 there is always room to spare!

Gospel Reading: John 10: 22-30

The Holy Gospel according to John, chapter ten, beginning at the twenty-second verse.

Praise and glory to God.

After the reading: This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ, the Word.

The Sermon

The Affirmation of Faith

Page **410** The Nicene Creed

Prayers of the People

(adapted from 'Let Us Pray' - Janet Nelson)

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

We stand

The Ministry of the Sacrament

Page **419** The peace of Christ ...

We may share a sign of Christ's peace with those around us by shaking hands (or appropriate alternative) and/or by saying "Peace be with you".

As we sing the next Hymn, the bread and wine are brought to the altar; our offerings for the Foodbank and money to support ministry and mission are collected and presented also.

Offertory Hymn: I will sing the wondrous story

SG#43 - Words: Francis Rowley © HarperCollins Tune: **HYFRYDOL**

1 I will sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me, how he left the realms of glory for the cross on Calvary.

[Refrain]

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me, sing it with the saints in glory, gathered by the crystal sea.

2 I was lost, but Jesus found me, found the sheep that went astray, raised me up and gently led me back into the narrow way. [Refrain]

- 3 I was faint and fears possessed me, I was bruised from many a fall, hope was gone, and shame distressed me: but his love has pardoned all. [Refrain]
- 4 Days of darkness still may meet me, sorrow's path I often tread; but his presence still is with me, by his guiding hand I'm led. [Refrain]
- 5 He will keep me till the river rolls its waters at my feet: then he'll bear me safely over, saved by grace and made complete.

[Refrain:]

The Preparation of the Gifts

Page **420** Blessed are you ...

The Great Thanksgiving

Page **420** The Lord is here ...

The Lord's Prayer

Page **424** Our Father in heaven ...

The Invitation

Page **427** Draw near and receive ...

Communion will be served at standing stations at the Sanctuary steps - all are welcome to receive the bread and wine at communion, (however please note that intinction, ie dipping the wafer into the wine chalice, is **NOT** permitted); although you are welcome to receive the bread only if you prefer, or to come forward for a blessing only.

If you need communion served to you in your seat, please indicate to the servers.

Prayer after Communion

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia. 1 Corinthians 5: 7,8

Father, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life.

Strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for each other; through Jesus Christ the risen Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

The God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, make you perfect in every good work to do his will... ...and the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life be with you always. **Amen.**

We share any notices and news

Closing Hymn: I danced in the morning

CP468 – Words: Sydney Carter © Stainer & Bell Tune: LORD OF THE DANCE (Shaker melody)

I danced in the morning when the world was begun, and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth, at Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain: "Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance," said he.
"I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
I will lead you all in the Dance," said he.

- I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me; I danced for the fishermen, for James and for John; they came with me and the dance went on. [Refrain]
- I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame, the holy people, they said it was a shame; they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and they left me there on a cross to die. [Refrain]
- I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black; it's hard to dance with the devil on your back; they buried my body and they thought I'd gone, but I am the dance and I still go on. [Refrain]

They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life that'll never, never die,
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
"I am the Lord of the Dance," said he. [Refrain]

The Dismissal

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace. **Amen. We go in the name of Christ.**

Acknowledgements:

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(encompassing St Matthew's, Hastings, St Peter's, Riverslea, & St Martin's, Mayfair)

Provoking faith in our communities

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