

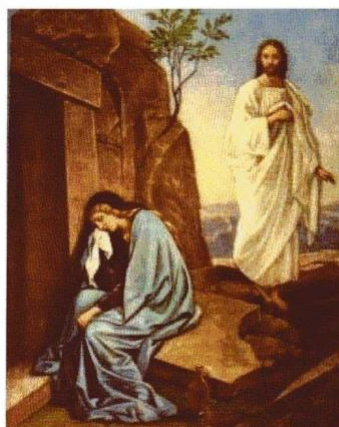
St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall

www.stmagnus.org

Scottish Charity SCO 05322/CCL No 119086

www.facebook.com/StMagnusCathedralCongregation

On the Wings of Resurrection



He is Risen.

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Welcome to St Magnus Cathedral this morning. It was founded in 1137 by St Rognvald, in honour of Magnus, his uncle. The Cathedral belongs to the people of Orkney and its doors are open to all. If you are a visitor, we hope this order of service will help you feel part of our worship together.

SUNDAY 4th April EASTER SUNDAY

You can find our Sunday worship here.

<https://www.facebook.com/StMagnusCathedralCongregation/>

or on YouTube here.

<https://youtu.be/C6ECi72hKzM>

Join our Wednesday ZOOM meditation by signing up here.
stmagnuszoom@gmail.com

Welcome and Candle lighting

The stone has rolled away
The grave is empty
Death has been conquered
Life has come back to the world

The birds are singing again
The sun brightens the dawn
The world breathe again
full of hope and colour and life
Life has come back to the world (*light candle*)

Opening meditation

The birds sang
alleluias were freed
the disciples ran
dawn slipped in
the garden woke
the mountains quaked
the tomb rocked
and the stone rolled
Light exploded
time held its breath.

the women wept
the gardener spoke
the angels danced
the world woke
the tomb rocked
and the stone rolled.

The stars rejoiced
the sun bowed
the spirit laughed
the water flowed

the bread broke
the wine shimmered
the tomb rocked
and the stone rolled.
Zacchaeus winked
Mary cried
Bartimeaus saw
the leper danced
the prodigal came home
the lost sheep was found
the tomb rocked
and the stone rolled.

Mustard grew
the cripple walked
poor were blessed
peacemakers made peace
the storm calmed
cheeks were turned
the tomb rocked
and the stone rolled.

The time is now
the place is here
the people are us
the word is spoken
the son is alive
the resurrection is true
the tomb rocks
and the stone rolls.

Reading Mark 16

When Jesus died and was buried, his dear friend Mary felt so down she went
to the tomb in the garden far outside the town.
She sat in the grass feeling sorry wishing Jesus hadn't died,
When she thought of his smiles and laughter,
poor Mary sat and cried.
Then as the sun came rising,
she saw the stone rolled away, inside the tomb were two angels, and Mary
heard them say,

“There’s no need to cry now, Mary! There’s no need to miss your friend!
There’s no need to cry now, Mary! Jesus is alive again!”
Mary jumped up feeling happy,
and then came another surprise,
she turned around and there was Jesus, she could hardly believe her eyes!
“Go and tell the others, Mary, There’s no need to miss your friend! Go and tell
the others, Mary,
Jesus is alive again!”

Reflection

This year again, Easter feels different. This year, as with last year, there will be no dawn services, crashing organ voluntaries, daffodils, bonnets, new suits and dresses. There will no joyful hugs and triumphant hymns in our sanctuary. We have been shaken out of our complacency. Our assumptions and illusions have been dashed by the continuing realities of the Coronavirus.

No wilful minister can defeat Coronavirus by holding Easter services. We don’t expect the virus to go away miraculously. The stone of the virus is in our way, and it appears that it will roll away on its own terms and not ours. We can put our hope in the efficacy of vaccines but as we now realise, it’s all very well our own country being vaccinated but what about humanity in general when we live in such an interconnected world.

We need a miracle and a resurrection, but it will not come from the outside. It will come from the Easter event surfacing in our own lives and congregations, shaped the realities of history and nature.

Still, there is no getting around the Easter miracles if you belong to the Jesus movement. Jesus’ first followers were transformed by their encounters with the Risen Christ. Once fearful, they became courageous; once uncertain, they became confident that Jesus was unique, the saviour of humankind, victorious over sickness and death.

The power of the resurrection to transform the lives of Jesus’ first followers can’t be denied by any honest observer. For two thousand years, the amazing power of Jesus’ resurrection has continued to bring healing and wholeness – indeed new birth – to peoples’ lives. Stones have been rolled away, and way has been made where we perceived no path forward.

Something dramatic happened that cannot be reduced to a tall tale, repetition of myths of death and rebirth, or a rotting corpse. Something mysterious and amazing occurred that can't be confined by a literalist understanding of the biblical stories. As the gospel of John proclaims, there is always more to Jesus than our own fabrications or the written text: his life, death, and resurrection will always transcend and sometimes transform the rational mind, opening the mind to a deeper rationalism in which all is wonder and miracle. "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name." says John chapter 20.

The resurrection will always remain a mystery, hidden from rationalists, Enlightenment-thinkers, and literalists. It is always more than we can ask or imagine.

Some try to domesticate the Easter message by positing the creation of fanciful stories, recycled death-rebirth myths, trying to locate Jesus' tomb and the corpse buried within, or suggesting that dogs ate the bones. The gospels even suggest that a rumour arose that Jesus' corpse had been stolen by his followers. But the gospels make plain that a stolen body can't inspire a spiritual revolution. The quest for the resurrected Jesus is often an act of faith.

Today, our prayers and hymn may not eradicate the Coronavirus, but they give us power and courage to say "yes" to life, to reach out to the vulnerable, to plan for a new future – with radical changes in our national and global priorities – beyond the pandemic. And, this very action may enhance our immune systems, give strength to help others in their anxieties, and nurture hope in a time of pandemic. That may be miracle enough. More a miracle than those clergy who restrict God's resurrection to their places of worship and who then want to use the courts to get their way.

This Easter, open to possibility, awaken to wonder, and look for hints of Jesus' resurrection in our own selves, our spirit, and the world around. Look for miracles and as practice resurrection in pandemic. Beyond the fanfare of megachurch preachers, fearful prognostications, and pomposity of political leaders, we will discover that Christ is Risen in our life – today!

Communion Invitation

We believe that death is not the end, but rather a transformation into new possibilities. Nothing that exists is ever completely destroyed. A star

exploding or a leaf falling: both offer new possibilities and will "live on" in ways unknown to stars and leaves.

Winter gives way to Spring; what seemed lifeless now abounds with life, new possibilities and delights. We, too, experience new possibilities arising from our failures or disappointments or what has come to an end.

Offerings

These are our offerings for the celebration of life in this place and beyond,
gifts of bread and wine,

In praise and gladness lift your voices. In praise and gladness lift your eyes.
In praise and gladness lift your hearts.

THE STORY

On the night he was arrested by the authorities and vested interests, the night when even love and friendship failed, Jesus took a piece of bread. He gave thanks.

Facing death, Jesus gave thanks,
and offered the bread to the friends who had failed him
and who would fail him.

'Take and eat. This is my body. I give it freely to you, Remember me
when you break bread.'

Then after supper, he lifted a cup of wine.
Again he gave thanks in the midst of his sorrow
and passed it around the company.
'Drink this, all of you. For in this wine is my promise to you
and to all the world, sealed in my blood.'

GREAT PRAYER

We give thanks for all the influences in our lives that have helped us see beyond the present and have called us to live in hope and trust whatever endings we have experienced.

We give thanks for Jesus of Nazareth for leading us to put our hope and trust in the Spirit of Life and Love moving in the depths of our being. We give thanks for the way he opened our minds and hearts to see and appreciate the intimate and never-ending connection between our loving and the Spirit of Love.

We give thanks for the Spirit of New Life active in our lives as it was in the life of Jesus.

Consecration

At this Easter gathering, we take bread,
as Jesus took bread, and we remember,
as Jesus remembered, the constant presence
of the Spirit of Life and Love.

Our spirits are touched and healed by shared humanity.

We take bread, symbol of humanity, symbol of life.

Take and Eat bread to Kyrie Eleison

We take cup, symbol of oneness, symbol of life.

Take and Drink wine to Agnus Dei

Bread and cup are before us, memory of our meals, our working, our talking;
stories which shape us, grieving and pain, light and darkness, seeking and
loving.

So come, taste this bread and drink of this cup, gifts of the earth, work of
human hands.

Music. O Lord, hear my prayer.

May the Peace of Christ be with you all.

Closing

To being the Body of Christ and to being open to the Spirit of New Life in
our lives and in our world: For the journey that life has been, for all that life
is for us now, for all that the future holds, and for the mystery of life
beyond death

Blessing

There is no longer silence
because everything is full of alleluias.

Go into the world

and seek out the patterns of across all gravestones.

Step into tomorrow knowing it has already been and find the one beside you
who has made it all possible.

Life... taken care of

May you stay safe in the Way of Christ, and may you be blessed by his Spirit
this day and always.