

**CHARLTON BENEFICE EUCHARIST  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Michael** welcomes us to worship.

**Introit Hymn**

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

*All* **Amen.**

**The Greeting**

*President* The Lord be with you  
*All* **and also with you.**

*President* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*All* **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*The president may repeat the acclamation, getting louder each time. The president then welcomes the people and sets out the eucharistic theme.*

**Prayers of Penitence**

*Michael* As we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ in word and sacrament, let us call to mind and confess our sins.

*Silence is kept.*

**Michael:** Creator God, you have planted the seed of love in our hearts, in our souls, in our lives.  
We long for the brightness of your presence drawing ever closer to you and to one another, as we join with your people at all times in all places to worship and to serve.  
Silence is kept  
We confess those frequent times when we have been stony ground, too hard to value the tiny seed, the generous smile, the heartfelt word.  
Lord, have mercy  
**All: Christ, have mercy**

**Michael:** We confess those frequent times when we have been stony ground, too hard to see beyond our selfish desires and for tacitly accepting a world that smothers the dreams of those with less power and wealth.  
Lord, have mercy

**All: Christ, have mercy**

Michael: Creator God, once again, you have planted the seed of love in our hearts, in our souls, in our lives. We draw near today in the knowledge that your forgiveness waters the seed and nurtures us with the power of your Spirit to grow, to flourish and to bear the fruit of your justice now and forevermore.

**All: Amen**

### **Absolution**

*President* 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 new life in Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

### **Gloria in Excelsis**

*All* **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. Amen.**

### **The Collect**

*President* Let us pray that we may reign  
with the risen Christ in glory.

*The president then leads the Collect, to which the congregation responds* **Amen.**

### **Liturgy of the Word**

**Old Testament Reading:** read by Michael, Alison and Joseph

#### **SECTION 1**

Michael: A reading from the prophet Joel  
The fields are devastated: the ground mourns.

Alison: For the grain is destroyed, the wine dries up, the oil fails.

Joseph: Be dismayed, you farmers, wail, you vine-dressers, over the wheat and the

barley;

Michael & Alison: For the crops of the field are ruined.

Joseph: The vine withers, the fig tree droops. Pomegranate, palm, and apple, all the trees of the field are dried up.

Michael & Alison: Surely, joy withers away among the people.

## SECTION 2

Michael: Then the Lord became jealous for the land, and had pity on the people.

Alison: In response to the people, the Lord said; I am sending you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a mockery among the nations.

Michael: Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things!

Alison: Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green.

Joseph: The tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

Michael: O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God.

Alison: For God has given the early rain for your vindication, abundant rain, the Early and the later rain, as before.

Joseph: The threshing-floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

Michael: I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.

Alison: You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord Your God, who has dealt wondrously with you.

Michael and Joseph: And my people shall never again be put to shame.

## SECTION 3

Joseph: Then afterwards, I will pour out my spirit on all flesh.

Michael: Your children shall prophesy.

Alison: Your elders shall dream dreams.

Joseph: And your youth shall see visions.

Michael: Even on the enslaved ones.

All: In those days, I will pour out my spirit.

Michael: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **New Testament Reading:** read by Gloria

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy

Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with [b] the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Gloria: This is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

### **Gradual Hymn**

**Gospel Reading:** read by Ruth

*Reader* Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

*All* **Alleluia.**

*Reader* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

*All* **Glory to you O Lord**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop - a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

*At the end of the Gospel*

*Ruth* This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon:** Joe

**Affirmation of faith:** led by Joe

**Intercessions:** led by Rick

*President* In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.

*Please sit. Prayers are offered*

*Intercessor* Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

*(or)*

Lord, hear us.  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*After the final prayer ...*

*Intercessor* God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer  
and make us one in heart and mind  
to serve you with joy forever.  
Amen.**

## **Liturgy of the Eucharist**

### **The Peace**

*President* The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

*All* The peace of the risen Christ be always with you  
**and also with you. Alleluia.**

*President* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace, greeting one another with these words*  
**Christ is risen.**

## **Offertory Hymn**

### **Preparation of the Table**

*The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.*

President: God, our Farmer  
You plant the seed  
You water the seed  
You nourish the seed  
You value the widow's mite  
You value Esther's peas  
You value what we bring today  
What we bring today  
Is already yours  
Accept these, our offerings  
And use them to help dreams come true In this community  
Through this church  
And in your world  
Through Christian Aid.  
**Amen.**

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

*President* The Lord is here.

*All* **His Spirit is with us.**

*President* Lift up your hearts.

*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*President* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*President* It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,  
at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise,  
holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.  
For he is your living Word; through him you have created  
all things from the beginning,  
and formed us in your own image.

*All* **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

*President* Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin,  
giving him to be born  
of a woman and to die upon the cross;  
you raised him from the dead and exalted him to your  
right hand on high.

*All* **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

*President* Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-  
giving Spirit, and made us  
a people for your own possession.

*All* **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

*President* And now we give you thanks because in his  
victory over the grave a new age has dawned,  
the long reign of sin is ended,  
a broken world is being renewed and humanity  
is once again made whole.  
Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and *saying*:

*All* **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.**

*President* Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his  
command, grant that by the power of your Holy  
Spirit these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;  
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.

*All* **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

*President* 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.

*All* **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

*President* Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of  
himself made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty Resurrection and glorious  
Ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this  
bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your  
Son our Lord. Christ is the bread of life:

*All* **When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory.**

*President* Accept through him, our great high priest, this our  
sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink  
these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your  
Spirit, inspire us with your love, and unite us in the body  
of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

*President* Through him, and with him, and in him, in  
the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who  
stand before you in earth and heaven, we  
worship you, Father almighty, in songs of  
everlasting praise:

*All* **Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*President* Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

*All* **Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,**



on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.

## Breaking of the Bread

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

*President* Jesus says, I am the bread of life,  
whoever eats of this bread will live for  
ever.

*All* **Lord, our hearts hunger for you;  
give us this bread always.**

## Agnus Dei

**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.**

*(or)*

**Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us peace.**

## Invitation to Communion

*President* Alleluia. Christ our Passover  
is sacrificed for us.

*All* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## Communion Hymn

## Prayer after Communion

*Silence is kept. The Post Communion or another suitable prayer is said.  
All respond **Amen.***

## Notices

## Final Prayer

*HARRIET* We say together ...  
*All* **Father of all, we give you thanks and  
praise, that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us  
home. Dying and living, he declared  
your love, gave us grace, and opened  
the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his  
risen life; we who drink his cup bring life  
to others; we whom the Spirit lights  
give light to the world. Keep us firm in  
the hope you have set before us, so we  
and all your children shall be free, and  
the whole earth live to praise your  
name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Blessing and Sending Out

*President* Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
*All* **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*President* Go into the world  
working together for change  
so that everyone can thrive  
and share life in its fullness.  
And in all we do  
**let us show the love of Jesus.**

Let us treat everyone with dignity.  
We will show the love of Jesus.  
Let us stand up for equality.  
We will show the love of Jesus.  
Let us fight for justice.

**We will show the love of Jesus.**

May the God of hope  
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may overflow with hope  
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*All*      **Amen.**

*President*    Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

*All*      **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

HYMN

*Our worship is over: our service begins*