**St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury**

*Confidently sharing the love of Christ*

**The Easter Vigil
Saturday 8th April 2022**

*Welcome to St Anne’s today—it is great to have you with us.* *For Christians this is a most holy and joyous night. On this night we celebrate the victory of Christ over death and the powers that threaten to destroy our world. On this night we proclaim with confidence the powerful love of God for His Son and for His world. The service is in four parts. It starts with the ceremony of light, in which we bless and light the Paschal Candle. This symbolises Christ as the light of the world, bringing the light of God into the darkness and a great hymn of praise is sung. We then sit to the hear the story of God’s plan for the salvation of the world through Christ in a Vigil of reading and prayer. As the children of the new Covenant we next renew our commitment to Christ by renewing our baptismal vows and finally we celebrate Christ’s Resurrection in the first Eucharist of Easter. This is a joyous night, and the overriding note of this night is celebration and happiness, we proclaim our faith with joy and hope for all the world to hear and share.*

**We begin - OUTSIDE IN THE GARDEN**

*The congregation gathers outside the Church close to a large fire which has been prepared in advance. When all are assembled the president introduces the service in the following words:*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which through word and sacrament we share in His victory over death. As we await the risen Christ, let us hear the record of God’s saving deeds in history, recalling how He saved His people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent His Son to be our Redeemer; and let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work He has begun.

*The new fire of Easter is blessed*

Let us pray;

Father we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the light of the world. Make this new fire + holy, and inflame us with new hope. Purify our minds by this Easter celebration and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The president blesses the Easter Candle, marking it with symbols of Christ’s rule over all time. Five grains of incense are also added to symbolise the five wounds of Christ on the cross. The president then lights the Easter candle with the taper from the new fire, saying*

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

*The priest bearing the candle enters the building, followed by the sanctuary party, and they pause just inside the entrance.*

*The minister bearing the candle raises it and sings*

The light of Christ.
**Thanks be to God**

*The congregation continues up the stairs, as we enter the church members top to light their candles from the Easter candle. All lift their candles high as the minister sings*

The light of Christ.
**Thanks be to God**

*When the minister bearing the Easter Candle arrives at the altar they face the people and we raise our candles for the third time singing:*

The light of Christ.
**Thanks be to God**

*The Easter candle is placed in its stand and some of the other candles in the Church are lit. The congregation go to their places and remain standing with candles held high for the singing of the Exultet, the Easter Song of praise.*

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*At the end of the Easter Proclamation the president invites us to hear the story of God’s plan for the salvation of the world in the words of Scripture.*

Dear Friends in Christ, As we await the risen Christ, let us hear the record of God’s saving deeds in history, recalling how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer; and let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

*Please be seated. Do take care with your candle during the Liturgy of the Vigil.*

 **THE FIRST READING; *Genesis 1;1-5, 26-end***

***In which we hear of the creation of the world.***

This is the word of the Lord
**Thanks be to God**

*At the end of the reading the following prayer is said;*

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in Your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through Your Son Jesus Christ: grant that as He came to share our humanity, so we may share the life of His divinity; who is alive and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***THE SECOND READING: Genesis: 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18***

***In which we hear of God’s promise to Abraham that his descendants will be as many as the grains of sand on the shore.***

This is the word of the Lord
**Thanks be to God**

*At the end of the reading the following prayer is said;*

God and Father of us all who believe in You, you promised Abraham that he would become the father of all nations, and through the death and resurrection of Christ You fulfil that promise: everywhere throughout the world You increase Your chosen people. May we respond to Your call by joyfully accepting Your invitation to the new life of grace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**THE THIRD READING: Exodus: 14: 10-end, 15:20-21**

***In which we hear of God’s deliverance of the people thorough the waters of the Red Sea.***

This is the word of the Lord
**Thanks be to God**

*At the end of the reading we sing the Psalm (Hymn 43)*

**As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you.**

**You alone are my hearts desire
and I long to worship you**

***Refrain
You alone are my strength and shield
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my hearts desire
and I long to worship you.***

**I want you more than gold and silver
only you can satisfy
You alone are the real joy-giver
and the apple of my eye. *Refrain***

**You’r my friend and you are my brother
even though you are my king
I love you more than any other
so much more than anything. *Refrain***

**THE FOURTH READING: Isaiah 55:1-11**

***In which we hear God’s invitation to all people to come to Him, to be refreshed and to find peace.***

This is the word of the Lord
**Thanks be to God**

*At the end of the reading the following prayer is said;*

Almighty, ever living God, only hope of the world; by the preaching of the prophets You proclaimed the mysteries we are celebrating tonight. Help us to be Your faithful people, for it is by Your inspiration alone that we can grow in holiness. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*Please stand. The Gloria is now sung and the altar candles are lit and the Church bells are rung in celebration of Christ’s victory over death.*

**Refrain: *Glory to God, Glory to God,
 Glory to God in the highest.***

**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. *Refrain:*

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. *Refrain:***

**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. *Refrain.***

**THE COLLECT**
Let us pray:

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of Your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in Him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to You in Jesus Christ, may reign with Him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. **Amen**

 **THE NEW TESTAMENT READING: *Romans 6.3-11***

*At the end the reader says*
 This is the word of the Lord.
 **Thanks be to God.**

*We sing the gradual* ***hymn 381 – Jesus Christ is Risen today*** *during which the gospel is processed to the middle of the church, please turn to face it.*

THE GOSPEL*: Luke 24: 1-12*

The Lord be with you
**And also with you**

(+++) Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
**Glory to You, O Lord**

*At the end the reader says*

This is the Gospel of Christ.
**Praise to You, O Christ**

THE SERMON
*Please be seated and extinguish your candles.*

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

*The clergy and ministers process around the Church to the font, Please follow on behind the procession to gather around the font. As we listen to the hymn 675—Spirit of the living God.*

**Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me
Melt me, Mould me, fill me, use me
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me**

**Spirit of the living God fall afresh on us
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on us
Melt us, Mould us, fill us, use us
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on us.**

*The priest now blesses the baptismal water, dipping the Easter candle into the water three times during the course of the prayer.*

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

**who keeps his promise for ever.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*The president invites us all to renew our baptismal promises:*

Dear Friends, through the paschal mystery we have been buried with Christ in baptism, so that we may rise with Him to a new life. Now that we have completed our Lenten observance let us renew the promises we made in baptism affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil. Therefore I ask these questions:
Do you turn to Christ?
**I turn to Christ.**Do you repent of your sins?
**I repent of my sins.**Do you renounce evil?
**I renounce evil.**
And now I ask you to make the profession of Christian faith into which you were baptized, and in which you live and grow.
Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
who made the world?
**I believe and trust in Him.**Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,
who redeemed us all?
**I believe and trust in Him.**Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God?
**I 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.**Almighty God, we thank You for our fellowship in the household of faith with all those who have been baptized in Your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in Your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*The priest sprinkles the congregation with Holy Water as a sign of our membership, through baptism, of the people of God. It is customary to make the sign of the cross when being sprinkled.*

**THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

T*he Priest will introduce the peace with suitable words...*

The risen Christ came and stood among His disciples and said, Peace be with you. Then they were glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia! The peace of the risen Christ be always with you
**and also with you. Alleluia!**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*and all may exchange a sign of peace, greeting one another with these words*

 **The Lord is risen** *Answer* **He is risen indeed.**

*We share the peace with those around us until the offertory Hymn is announced. We sing the offertory* ***751 – Thine be the Glory*** *during which a collection is taken.*

**THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**Lord of life, with unbounded joy we offer you our sacriﬁce of praise. As we are fed with the bread of heaven may we know your resurrection power; through Christ our risen Lord. **Amen.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of the universe, you bring forth bread from the earth.
**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of the universe,
you create the fruit of the vine.
**Blessed be God for ever.**

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

Lift up your hearts.
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

*Prayer continues until we sing*

**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.**

*The Eucharistic prayer continue until*

Great is the mystery of faith
**Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again.**

*The Eucharistic prayer concludes and we say* **Amen**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray in the language of our hearts.

**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.**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,

whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

**Lord, our hearts hunger for you;**

**give us this bread always.**

*We sing the Agnus Dei.*

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us
Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us
Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
grant us Your peace**

*The Elevation*

Behold, the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to His supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacriﬁced for us.

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

*We receive communion, during which we listen to Mozart—Laudate Dominun—’Sing Praise’. If you would receive communion in your own church you are welcome to receive at this altar. You may also like to come forward for a blessing. After all have received we keep a brief silence before the president leads us in prayer.*

Let us pray:

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Brief notices are given*

 THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

*Please stand*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**The God pf peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!
**In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*We remain standing to sing our final hymn* ***494 – Love’s redeeming work is done***  *during which the clergy depart.*

***Our celebrations will continue downstairs after the service. Please do join us as we rejoice in the resurrection of Christ and in the love of God for his world.***



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