

The Benefice of Groby and Ratby



St. Philip & St. James Church, Groby



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WORSHIP FROM THE BENEFICE OF GROBY AND RATBY



EASTER 4

*We say together the words printed in **bold**, knowing we are united across time and space in the power of Christ.*

THE GATHERING

Not an easy peace,
not an insignificant peace,
not a half-hearted peace,
but the peace of God in Jesus Christ
be with you all.

OPENING RESPONSES

Thanks be to you, O God, that we have risen this day
To the rising of this life itself.

Be the purpose of God between us and each purpose.
The hand of God between us and each hand,

The pain of Christ between us and each pain,
The love of Christ between us and each love.

O God, who brought us to the bright light of this new day
Bring us to the guiding light of eternity.

SONG

See, what a morning, gloriously bright
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem
Folded the grave-clothes, tomb filled with light
As the angels announce, "Christ is risen!"

See God's salvation plan
Wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice
Fulfilled in Christ, the Man
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!

See Mary weeping, "Where is He laid?"
As in sorrow, she turns from the empty tomb
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name
It's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!

This voice that spans the years
Speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us
Will sound 'til He appears
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!

One with the Father, Ancient of Days
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty
Honour and blessing, glory and praise
To the King crowned with pow'r and authority!

And we are raised with Him
Death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered
And we shall reign with Him
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND RESTORATION

We gather in God's name.
We claim Christ's promised presence.

My brothers and sisters, not out of dread and fear
but believing that God is faithful to forgive,
let us rid ourselves of what we need to carry no longer.

Eternal God, maker of the skies above,
lowly Christ, born amidst the growing earth,
Spirit of life, wind over the flowing waters,
in earth and sky, you are there.
O hidden mystery, sun behind all suns,
soul behind all souls,
in everything we touch, in everyone we meet,
your presence is around us, and we give you thanks.
But when we have not touched
but trampled you in creation,
when we have not met but missed you in one another,
when we have not received but rejected you in the poor,
forgive us, and hear now our plea for mercy.

Hear now the words of Jesus for all who are truly sorry and seek to
renew their lives: your sins are forgiven. Go in peace; come and
follow me.

Lead us now, O God, to acknowledge your costly generosity by living as forgiven people, until heaven and earth rejoice and the whole earth cries Glory! Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE READING OF THE WORD

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scriptures. Our hearts and minds are open.

Read by Lianne Brooks

John 10:11-18

¹¹ 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ 'I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life – only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.'

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

Refrain

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.

Refrain

SERMON

Rev'd Ed

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by Keith Wignall

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

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.

SONG

Performed by members of our church family

I can't see Your face but I know that You are smiling.
I can't see Your feet but You lead me wherever I go.
I can't see Your eyes but You cry when I am hurting.
I can't see Your arms but I feel You drawing me near.

There are things about You that I don't know
but this I know for sure:
You love me
and You call me to be Yours.

I can't see Your face but I know that You are smiling.
I can't see Your feet but You lead me wherever I go.
I can't see Your eyes but You cry when I am hurting.
I can't see Your arms but I feel You drawing me near.

There are things about You that I don't know
but this I know for sure:
You love me
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You love me
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BLESSING

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you:
wherever he may send you;
may he guide you through the wilderness:
protect you through the storm;
may he bring you home rejoicing:
at the wonders he has shown you;
may he bring you home rejoicing:
once again into our doors.

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