

# **The Festival of Whitsun Carols**

**12 June 2022  
6.00 pm**



## WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

For over 190 years a community has gathered at St John's to worship God and to demonstrate faith at work in our daily lives. Our Parish Church serves the Hyde Park Estate, the area north of Sussex Gardens, Praed Street and the Paddington Basin, but our members come from across our city. This building provides a sacred space for prayer and meeting between God and his people.

We carefully design our services to help us celebrate life, to comfort us where we hurt and to challenge us where we have grown complacent. In all we do, we seek to equip each other to live out our faith wherever we may be. As a tangible expression of Jesus' openness to all, St John's welcomes all people regardless of ethnicity, sexual orientation, socio-economic circumstances or spiritual background to our worshipping community and Eucharistic table.

We welcome all who seek God and invite you into our efforts to be a strong facilitator of good in our city. Come join us as we seek to build the Kingdom of God in our souls, our lives and our communities here in London.

Further information about St John's can be found on our web site:

[www.stjohns-hydepark.com](http://www.stjohns-hydepark.com)

Twitter: @StJohnsHP

Stephen Mason  
Vicar



## Resurrection, Ascension, Whitsun & Trinity

Jesus who was dead and buried rose to new life. The great work of God that began in Eden and continued with Mary at the Incarnation found its climax with Mary Magdalene at the Resurrection. Jesus seemed gone forever, the hope was over, and everyone thought death would never let him go. But while life was lost, love was not. The love of God did not die, and in a burst of impossible power, the Father resurrected Christ to new life. God wants to be with us, and not even death can stop that. As Mary stood there, Jesus was here and now – God would not wait, so life was made new in the original Beloved. Creation happened again, and it will continue, always, God seeking us until the end of time, when finally we will return to God, and to be together, forever.

The redeeming work of God continued when Jesus ascended into heaven, his final act on earth until he comes again. He had given us all that he needed to, and done all that only God could do, and so he handed things over to the next part, which is what *we* need to do with him. He is human, so he can only be in one place at one time, and at the moment, he is in heaven, with the original Lover, and one day, heaven will come to earth. He went ahead of us so that we could enter the next chapter of the story, after his time incarnate on earth. It was a beginning, and we are still in that chapter as we worship together today.

We were not left unequipped, and we will never be alone in the work. Pentecost answered the question of what life should look like next, and how do we join with Christ's work when he has ascended. This time when Jesus left, he gave us the Holy Spirit, the original Love that burns eternal, the presence of God we can know with certainty. It burns and sizzles in romance, it rumbles and thunders in family, it swirls and flows in friends, it whistles and flurries in community. Such a gift frees us from our divisions and gives us all we need to live out what Christ embodied and taught. The Love of God fills us until its flames burst out and touch everything around us.

This story finds its reason for being, its source for all it has, and its ultimate purpose, in the glorious revelation of God as Trinity. Lover, Beloved, and Love. Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The vision of eternity that the Father's work in Jesus through the Spirit builds towards is one of relationship and delight in each other, because it is shaped by the core identity of God. This revelation of God as Trinity, fully seen in the good news of Jesus Christ, is the truth that we proclaim. God is beyond comprehension, intimate and distant, knowable and mysterious, personal and universal, a holiness that is defined as communion. The Trinity shows us that God is not an answer, but a conversation, that we are invited to join in with, a conversation neither side ever want to end.

*Please sit for the readings and anthems and stand to sing the hymns.*

*Please stand for the entry of the choir and clergy.*

**HYMN**

**Alleluia, alleluia!  
Hearts to heav'n and voices raise;  
sing to God a hymn of gladness,  
sing to God a hymn of praise:  
he who on the cross a victim  
for the world's salvation bled—  
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,  
now is risen from the dead.**

**Alleluia, Christ is risen!  
Death at last has met defeat:  
see the ancient pow'rs of evil  
in confusion and retreat;  
once he died, and once was buried:  
now he lives forevermore,  
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer,  
whom we worship and adore.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!  
Glory be to God on high:  
alleluia to the Savior  
who has gained the victory;  
alleluia to the Spirit,  
fount of love and sanctity!  
Alleluia, alleluia  
to the triune Majesty!**

*Christopher Wordsworth 1807-85  
Arthur Sullivan 1842-1900*

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

*Please be seated.*

## THE BIDDING

At Easter we celebrate with joy Christ's redemptive work, and the promise of eternal life in which we now share. At this time Christ appeared to his disciples over the course of forty days, speaking to them about the kingdom of God. Following this he ascended to sit at the right hand of the Father, until he shall return in great glory at the last day. The disciples, women and men, remained in Jerusalem in an upper room, devoting themselves to prayer. On the fiftieth day, while they were all gathered the Holy Spirit came upon them like tongues of fire, leading them to proclaim the Gospel and be understood in the languages of all the nations. Sent forth in the power of the Spirit, they went out continuing the ministry of Jesus in teaching, healing and building the kingdom throughout the world.

Today, inspired by the story of our faith, let us be empowered to take on Christ's mission. As we hear again how Christ was raised from the dead let us, with the apostles, cast off our fear and doubt in the hope of the resurrection. As we hear of his ascension, let our spirits be raised. And as we hear of the gift of the Spirit let us pray for the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control; and through them praise God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*The congregation sits or kneels.*

In the joy of the resurrection,  
let us pray to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us:

*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.**

# Resurrection

- Matthew 28.1-10 -

**Read by: Samantha Tear**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

## **Symphony No 2, 5th movement**

*G Mahler*

*Hör' auf zu beben!  
Bereite dich zu leben!*

*O Schmerz! Du Alldurchdringer!  
Dir bin ich entrungen!  
O Tod! Du Allbezwinger!  
Nun bist du bezwungen!  
Mit Flügeln, die ich mir errungen,  
In heißem Liebesstreben,  
Werd' ich entschweben  
Zum Licht, zu dem kein Aug'  
gedrungen!  
Sterben werd' ich, um zu leben!*

*Tremble no more!  
Prepare yourself to live!*

*O Sorrow, all-penetrating!  
I have been wrested away from you!  
O Death, all-conquering!  
Now you are conquered!  
With wings that I won  
In the passionate strivings of love  
I shall mount  
To the light to which no sight has  
penetrated.  
I shall die, so as to live!*

*Aufersteh'n, ja aufersteh'n wirst du,  
Mein Herz, in einem Nu!  
Was du geschlagen,  
Zu Gott wird es dich tragen!*

*Arise, yes, you will arise from the dead,  
My heart, in an instant!  
What you have conquered  
Will bear you to God.*

*- Extract from 'Resurrection in Nine Words' by Sam Wells -  
Read by: Maxine Whiltshire*

The moment when you realise  
three terrible words,  
gone, over, never,  
have been engulfed  
by the six tremendous words,  
here, now, new, again, always, forever.

We have a word for the moment that happens.  
We call it Easter.  
Happy Easter: here now, new, again, always, forever.

*Please stand.*

### **HYMN**

**Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,  
First-begotten from the dead,  
Thou alone, our strong defender,  
Liftest up thy people's head.  
Alleluya,  
Jesu, true and living Bread!**

**Here our humblest homage pay we;  
Here in loving reverence bow;  
Here for Faith's discernment pray we,  
Lest we fail to know thee now.  
Alleluya,  
Thou art here, we ask not how.**



**Though the lowliest form doth veil thee  
As of old in Bethlehem,  
Here as there thine angels hail thee,  
Branch and Flower of Jesse's stem.  
Alleluya,  
We in worship join with them.**

**Paschal Lamb, thine Offering, finished  
Once for all when thou wast slain,  
In its fullness undiminished  
Shall for evermore remain,  
Alleluya,  
Cleansing souls from every stain.**

**Life-imparting heavenly Manna,  
Stricken Rock with streaming side,  
Heaven and earth with loud hosanna  
Worship thee, the Lamb who died,  
Alleluya,  
Risen, ascended, glorified!**

*G H Bourne 1840-1925  
George Martin 1844-1916*

*Please be seated.*

## Ascension

- Acts 1.6-11 -

***Read by: Matthew Hindhaugh***

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.'

### **CATCH ME IF YOU CAN - *Fly, fly away***

*M Shaiman*

*When I was a child, my eyes were clear, I saw the good side  
That's the kind of second sight that doesn't last too long  
But when I was lost, I heard a voice that brought me healing  
That's the kind of special hope he brought me with his song  
People only saw the doctor, lawyer, Indian chief  
But he was just a lonely little boy to me  
With his sweet and gentle touch he sure unlocked my soul  
So in return I surely want to help to set him free  
Yeah, now I wanna see him fly, fly  
I'll be your alibi, my baby  
Fly, fly, fly away  
We didn't get to say goodbye, goodbye  
No need to tell me why, my baby  
Maybe it's because you'll fly back home to me one day*

*Men who they call real were really fakes who left me nothing  
But this man they call a fake gave me something real  
I've known cruel, cruel men with Christian names who taught me  
manners  
But this man without a name taught me how to feel  
They only saw the magic tricks, the smoke and mirrors  
Was I the only one to ever see the boy?  
So now they want to clip his precious wings and bring him down  
But in his heart and soul's the kind of good they can't destroy  
Yeah now I wanna see him fly, fly  
I'll be your alibi, my baby*

*Fly, fly, fly away  
We didn't get to say goodbye, goodbye  
No need to tell me why, my baby  
Maybe it's because you'll fly back home to me one day*

*Baby, when you're in the clouds, please keep a lookout  
Maybe, darling, find a hideaway for you and I, you and I*

*And now I wanna see you fly, fly  
I'll be your alibi, my baby  
Fly, fly, fly away  
We didn't get to say goodbye, goodbye  
No need to tell me why, my baby  
Maybe it's because you'll fly back home to me one day  
Maybe it's because you'll fly back home to me one day  
Maybe it's because you'll fly back home to me one day  
And I'll be waiting for you there  
You'll fly back home to me one day*

## Pentecost

- Acts 2.1-4,12-17 -

***Read by: Derek Harris***

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be

known to you and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

“In the last days it will be, God declares  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy  
and your young men shall see visions  
and your old men shall dream dreams.”

***ASPECTS OF LOVE - Love Changes Everything***  
*A Lloyd Webber*

*Love, love changes everything  
Hands and faces, earth and sky  
Love, Love changes everything  
How you live and how you die  
Love can make the summer fly  
Or a night seem like a lifetime  
Yes, love, love changes everything  
Now I tremble at your name  
Nothing in the world will ever be the same  
Love, love changes everything  
Days are longer, words mean more  
Love, love changes everything  
Pain is deeper than before  
Love will turn your world around  
And that world will last forever  
Yes, love, love changes everything  
Brings you glory, brings you shame  
Nothing in the world will ever be the same  
Off into the world we go  
Planning futures, shaping years  
Love bursts in, and suddenly  
All our wisdom disappears  
Love makes fools of everyone  
All the rules we make are broken*

*Yes, love, love changes everyone  
Live or perish in its flame  
Love will never, never let you be the same  
Love will never, never let you be the same*

- 'Pentecost' by Malcolm Guite -  
***Read by: Lyn Meadows***

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings  
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays  
Today the church draws breath at last and sings  
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.  
This is the feast of fire, air, and water  
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.  
The earth herself awakens to her maker  
And is translated out of death to birth.  
The right words come today in their right order  
And every word spells freedom and release  
Today the gospel crosses every border  
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace  
Today the lost are found in His translation.

Whose mother tongue is Love in every nation.

*Please stand. There will be a collection during this hymn.  
If you are a UK taxpayer, please fill out a gift-aid envelope and  
place it in the plate.*

### **HYMN**

**Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising.  
Give me joy in my heart, I pray.  
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising.  
Keep me praising till the break of day.  
*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
sing hosanna to the King of kings!  
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
sing hosanna to the King!***

**Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting.  
Give me peace in my heart, I pray.  
Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting.  
Keep me resting till the break of day.  
*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna...***

**Give me love in my heart, keep me serving.  
Give me love in my heart, I pray.  
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving.  
Keep me serving till the break of day.  
*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
sing hosanna to the King of kings!  
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
sing hosanna to the King!***

**Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning,  
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray.  
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning,  
Keep me burning till the end of day.  
*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna...***

*Traditional, arr John Ballantine*

*Please be seated.*

## **PRAYERS**

Let us pray that the Spirit will work through our lives to bring Christ to the world.

Generous God, you sent your Holy Spirit upon Jesus at the River Jordan and upon the disciples in the upper room: in your mercy fill us with the power and wisdom of your Holy Spirit. Make us wise to understand your will and strengthen us to serve you better. Equip us for the work which you have given us with the gifts of that same Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

Almighty God, you breathed your Holy Spirit over the waters at Creation and transform us all by that same lively and precarious Spirit. Renew us as we seek to reach out in new and creative ways to respond to the needs of those who live, work and pass through this community in Paddington. Breathe on your Church in this place that we may proclaim your Gospel afresh in our time.

*All* **Amen.**

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:  
grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things  
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;  
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

## Trinity

*- Romans 5.1-5 -*

***Read by: Georgina Elsey***

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

## HYMN

**Father, Lord of all creation,  
ground of being, life and love;  
Height and depth beyond description,  
only life in you can prove:**

**You are mortal life's dependence:  
thought, speech, sight are ours by grace;  
Yours is every hour's existence,  
sovereign Lord of time and space.**

**Jesus Christ, the man for others  
we, your people, make our prayer  
help us love, as sisters, brothers  
all whose burdens we can share  
where your name binds us together  
you, Lord Christ, will surely be  
where no selfishness can sever  
there you love the world may see.**

**Holy Spirit, rushing, bringing  
wind and flame of Pentecost  
fire our hearts afresh with yearning  
to regain what we have lost  
may your love unite our action  
nevermore to speak alone  
God, in us, abolish faction  
God, through us, your love make known.**

*Stewart Cross  
Abbot's Leigh*

*Gloria in Excelsis - C V Stanford, arr N Miller*

*Glory be to God on high,  
and on earth peace, good will towards men.  
We praise thee, we bless thee,  
we worship thee, we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,  
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.*



*Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.  
For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

## THE BLESSING

The Lord be with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

God the Father,  
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,  
open to you the gates of everlasting life.

God the Son,  
who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,  
plead for you at the right hand of the Father.

God the Holy Spirit,  
who pours out her abundant gifts upon the Church,  
make you faithful servants of Christ our King.

And the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

## VOLUNTARY

*Captain America – March*

A Silvestri, arr N Miller