



**RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD  
VIGIL OF EASTER  
April 11, 2020**

**The Three Holy Days:  
Worshipping Together for Holy Week 2020**

First Parish Congregational Church, Yarmouth  
St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Yarmouth

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Staff at First Parish Yarmouth:

Rev. Kate Dalton — Senior Pastor  
Rev. Kelli Whitman — Interim Associate Pastor  
Amanda Gale — Music Director  
Evan Cuddy — Musician  
Wendy Kopera — Technical Wizard

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church:

The Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley — Rector  
Rev. Abigail d'Ambruoso — Education Coordinator  
John Corrie — Organist/Music Director  
St. Bart's choir  
Phil Chin — Music Technician  
Ken Pooley — Technical Wizard

Dear Members of First Parish and St. Bartholomew's,

As we enter Holy Week, we are grateful to be praying together, two communities of faith celebrating three days central to the Christian year. Because of the pandemic, we cannot hold these important services together in our churches. Yet we can worship together in spirit and truth, with hearts united in prayer for the well-being of our communities and our world.

These three services are really one event, stretched over three days: from Maundy Thursday, through Good Friday and into Easter. As a sign of our unity in this time of distress, we are joining together in worship each of the three nights. While Easter is a joyful festival, we keep it now in a time of difficulty and world-wide sorrow. Still, we believe that Christ is with us in his word, by his Spirit drawing us together as one before God. And we believe that the gospel of Christ gives us strength amid distress and comfort in the face of our sufferings.

With thanks for the staff and clergy of First Parish Yarmouth and St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, our choir and music directors, readers, production people, the Episcopal Diocese of Maine and Bishop Thomas James Brown, and YOU. It's good to do this holy work together.

*Rev. Kate Dalton First Parish  
Rev. Kelli Whitman, First Parish*

*The Rev. Nina Pooley St. Bart's  
Rev. Abby d'Ambruoso, St. Bart's*

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*Resources:*

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*Other resources include:*

*The Book of Common Prayer 1979 and The Hymnal 1982: Episcopal Church Publishing; the Book of Alternative Services: Anglican Church of Canada. Unless otherwise noted, Biblical texts are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. Material adapted from the New Living Translation, Ezekiel 37, is from Keeping the Feast; Reimagining Holy Week, out of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. Jan Richardson: Circle of Grace, [paintedprayerbook.com](http://paintedprayerbook.com).*

*This evening, set your altar/sacred space with unlit candle(s),  
(we will be lighting 6 candles on our altar, once we 'ring in' Easter),  
a bowl of water, and a short length of one of your Palm Sunday branches/palms.  
Replace the black ribbon or cloth, with a white cloth or ribbon, or even a gold or silver ribbon.  
And a bell to ring, if you have one.*

## **Welcome**

*The Rev. Nina R. Pooley*

## **Opening Acclamation**

The light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Light a candle; if your candles are different sizes, light the largest one now.*

## **An Easter Proclamation**

*Rev. Kelli Whitman*

Rejoice, all heavenly choirs of angels!

Christ has conquered; the risen Savior shines upon you.

This is the night in which the true Lamb is slain.

This is the night:

**this is the night.**

This the night in which the children of Israel were led through the sea.

This is the night:

**this is the night.**

This is the night in which all who believe in Christ are renewed in grace.

This is the night:

**this is the night.**

The holiness of this night restores joy to those who mourn and humbles earthly pride. Therefore this night, O God, receive our praise for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. May Christ, the Morning Star, rising from the grave, shed light on the whole human race. And we pray, O God: preserve and protect your church, giving us peace, in this time and forever. **Amen.**

## **Concluding prayer**

*Rev. Kate Dalton*

O God, you are the creator of the world,

the liberator of your people,

and the wisdom of the earth.

By the resurrection of your Son,

free us from our fears,

restore us in your image,

and ignite us with your light,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **The Lessons**

### **First Reading: The Story of Creation**

*Genesis 1:1-2:2a  
adapted from James Wheldon Johnson's "God's Trombones"*

*Abby and Will d'Ambruoso*

*Male:* And God stepped out on space, and he looked around and said: I'm lonely-- I'll make me a world. And far as the eye of God could see Darkness covered everything, blacker than a hundred midnights down in a cypress swamp. Then God smiled, and the light broke, And the darkness rolled up on one side, and the light stood shining on the other, And God said: That's good!

*Female:* Then God reached out and took the light in his hands, And God rolled the light around in his hands until he made the sun; And he set that sun a-blazing in the heavens. And the light that was left from making the sun God gathered it up in a shining ball and flung it against the darkness, Spangling the night with the moon and stars. Then down between the darkness and the light he hurled the world; And God said: That's good!

*Male:* Then God himself stepped down—And the sun was on his right hand, and the moon was on his left; the stars were clustered about his head, And the earth was under his feet. And God walked, and where he trod His footsteps hollowed the valleys out And bulged the mountains up. Then he stopped and looked and saw that the earth was hot and barren. So God stepped over to the edge of the world and he spat out the seven seas--He batted his eyes, and the lightnings flashed-- He clapped his hands, and the thunders rolled--And the waters above the earth came down. The cooling waters came down.

*Female:* Then the green grass sprouted, and the little red flowers blossomed, the pine tree pointed her finger to the sky, and the oak spread out her arms, the lakes cuddled down in the hollows of the ground, and the rivers ran down to the sea; and God smiled again, and the rainbow appeared, and curled itself around her shoulder. Then God raised her arm and she waved her hand over the sea and over the land, and she said: Bring forth! Bring forth! And quicker than God could drop her hand, fishes and fowls and beasts and birds swam the rivers and the seas, roamed the forests and the woods, and split the air with their wings. And God said: That's good!

*Male:* Then God walked around, And God looked around on all that he had made. He looked at his sun,

*Female:* And she looked at her moon,

*Male:* And he looked at his little stars;

*Female:* She looked on her world with all its living things, And God said: I'm lonely still.

*Male:* Then God sat down-- On the side of a hill where he could think; by a deep, wide river he sat down; with his head in his hands, God thought and thought, till he thought: I'll make me a human!

*Female:* Up from the bed of the river God scooped the clay;

*Male:* And by the bank of the river He kneeled him down;

*Female:* And there the great God Almighty who lit the sun and fixed it in the sky,

*Male:* Who flung the stars to the most far corner of the night, Who rounded the earth in the middle of his hand;

*Female:* This great God, like a mammy bending over her baby, kneeled down in the dust toiling over a lump of clay till she shaped it in her own image;

*Both:* Then into it we blew the breath of life, And all of you, all of you, became living souls. Amen and Amen!

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Especially now, we long for an ordered world. In spite of death and sorrow, the resurrection of Jesus Christ contains the promise of a new creation. Baptized into his death and resurrection, we are made witnesses to God's new creation, and it is very good.*

## **Second Reading: Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea**

*Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21*

*Rev Kelli Whitman*

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

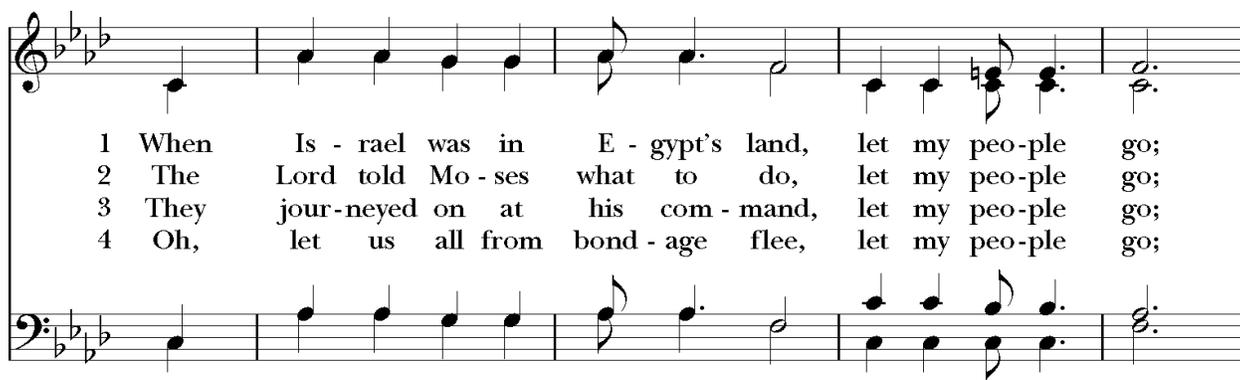
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*We long for freedom from fear and confusion, sin and death. The resurrection of Christ brings us through the sea to new life, and baptism has enacted that exodus.*

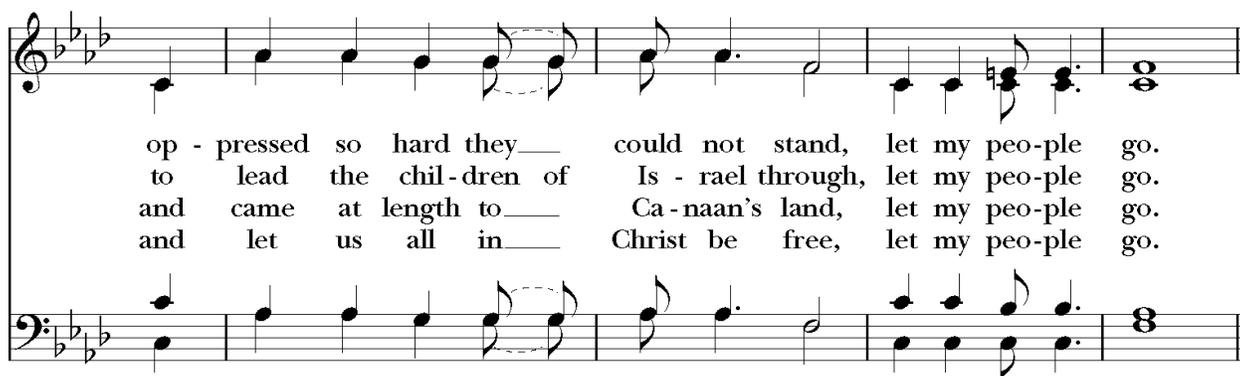
### Musical Response

*Instrumental by Evan Cuddy*

### Hymn 648 *When Israel was in Egypt's Land*



1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land, let my peo-ple go;  
2 The Lord told Mo - ses what to do, let my peo-ple go;  
3 They jour - neyed on at his com - mand, let my peo-ple go;  
4 Oh, let us all from bond - age flee, let my peo-ple go;



op - pressed so hard they — could not stand, let my peo-ple go.  
to lead the chil - dren of Is - rael through, let my peo-ple go.  
and came at length to — Ca - naan's land, let my peo-ple go.  
and let us all in — Christ be free, let my peo-ple go.

*Refrain*

Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land;  
 tell old Pha - raoh to let my peo - ple go.

The image shows a musical score for a refrain. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land; tell old Pha - raoh to let my peo - ple go." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a steady rhythm.

### Third Reading: The Valley of Dry Bones

*Ezekiel 37: 1-14  
 adapted from the New Living Translation*

*Barbara Barhydt and John Duncan*

*Ezekiel:* The Lord took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of the Lord to a valley filled with bones. He led me all around among the bones that covered the valley floor. They were scattered everywhere across the ground and they were very, very dry. And then the Spirit began to speak:

*Spirit:* Mortal, can these bones become living people again?

*Ezekiel:* O Sovereign Lord, you alone know the answer to that.

*Spirit:* Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, 'Listen up, you dry, dry bones. Listen to the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again! I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'

*Ezekiel:* So I spoke this message, just as he told me. Suddenly as I spoke, there was a rattling noise all across the valley. The bones of each body came together and attached themselves as complete skeletons. Then as I watched, muscles and flesh formed over the bones. Then skin formed to cover their bodies, but they still had no breath in them.

*Spirit:* Speak a prophetic message to the winds, mortal. Speak a prophetic message and say, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, O breath, from the four winds! Breathe into these dead bodies so they may live again.'

*Ezekiel:* So I spoke the message as he commanded me, and breath came into their bodies. They all came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army.

*Spirit:* Now behold mortal: these bones represent the people of Israel. They are saying, 'We have become old, dry bones—all hope is gone. Our nation is finished.' Therefore, prophesy to them and say, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: O my people, I will open your graves of exile and cause you to rise again. Then I will bring you back to the land of Israel. When this happens, O my people, you will know that I am the Lord. I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live again and return home to your own land. Then you will know that I, the Lord, have spoken, and I have done what I said. Yes, the Lord has spoken!'

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*We are the dry bones. The Spirit of God, poured out from Christ's death and resurrection, makes us alive together with him, a whole people standing together in new life, even when we are separated from each other.*

**Musical Response**  
*Breathe on me, Breath of God*

*Sung by Amanda Gale*

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,  
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,  
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,  
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die;

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.  
un - til with thee I will one will, to do or to en - dure.  
till all this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.  
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

**The Collect**

*The Rev. Nina Pooley*

Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

In remembrance of our baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, let us confess the baptismal creed:

*Presider:* Do you believe in God the Father?

*People:* **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

*Presider:* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People:* **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

*Presider:* Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

*People:* **I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

*Presider:* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People:* **I will, with God's help.**

*Presider:* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People:* **I will, with God's help.**

*Presider:* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People:* **I will, with God's help.**

*Presider:* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*People:* **I will, with God's help.**

*Presider:* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

*People:* **I will, with God's help.**

*Presider:* Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?

*People:* **I will with God's help.**

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Grant by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we who sign ourselves with the cross and with water as a reminder of our Baptism may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To Christ, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Make the sign of the cross on your forehead with water from the bowl, use the short portion of your branch or palm to sprinkle water on those with whom you are praying tonight, and on your altar/sacred space.*

### **Proclamation**

*Rev. Kate Dalton*

Let us proclaim together.

**Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

**The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*Light all the candles set out on your altar/sacred space, from the first candle, and ringing bells as we celebrate EASTER. Ring your bell very time you hear or say the word Alleluia.*

### **Collect of the Resurrection**

*Rev. Kelli Whitman*

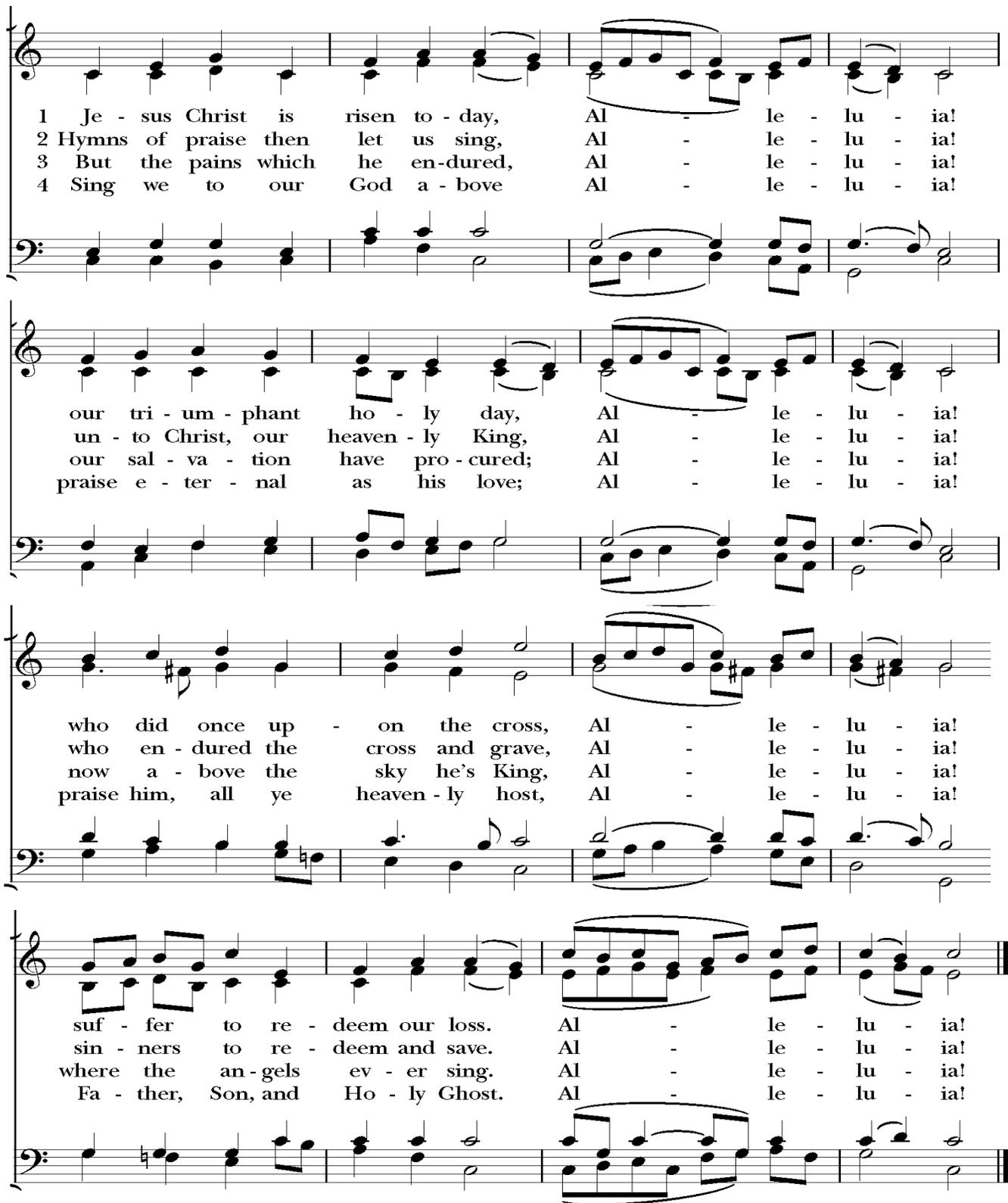
*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn 207 *Jesus Christ is Risen Today, all sing*



1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise him, all ye heaven - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

## The Gospel Lesson: John 20:1–18

Rev. Kate Dalton

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Homily

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Thomas Brown, Bishop of Maine

## Prayers of Intercession

Rev. Abby d’Ambruoso

On this most holy night, we pray for the church, the earth, the world, those in need, and all the members of God’s family, responding to each petition with the words **Hear our prayer**.

*A brief silence.*

We pray, O God, for all the churches around the globe: for their bishops and clergy; for the newly baptized; for the believers who cannot assemble for worship; for faithful endurance during this time of sorrow and distress; and for a deepening sense of your presence among us.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you are our Temple: in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**.

We pray, O God, for the well-being of creation: for the health of seas and rivers and lakes; and for the will to care for your earth.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you are our Rainbow of promise: in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**.

We pray, O God, for peace and justice in the world: for an end to war and international turmoil; for concord in our troubled society; for the heads of state, legislators, and local civic leaders, that they enact wise procedures to deal with the coronavirus.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you are our Mighty Fortress: in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**.

We pray, O God for all who are facing the coronavirus: for all who mourn their dead; all who have contracted the virus; those who are quarantined or stranded away from home; those who have lost their employment; those who fear the present and the future. We pray for physicians, nurses, and home health aides; medical researchers; and the World Health Organization. Fill the aching in our hearts with your merciful power.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you are our Everlasting Arms: in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**.

We pray, O God, for all in need: for those suffering for the faith; for those who are poor, hungry, and homeless; for those who are sick and those awaiting death; and for those we name before you here.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you are the Healer of our every ill: in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray, O God, for the desires of our hearts:

*A longer period of silence.*

O God, you are our Heart's Desire: in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Receive our thanks for all who died in the faith, and bring us at the final resurrection into your everlasting life, where sorrows will be no more.

*A brief silence.*

O God, our Beginning and our End, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Into your gracious and mighty hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Rev. Kate Dalton*

**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.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
And deliver us from evil,  
For the kingdom, the power,  
And the glory are yours,  
Now and forever. Amen.**

### **Concluding Prayer**

Eternal giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your church with the Spirit given us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth and may shine as a light in the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

*The Rev. Nina Pooley*

My friends, life is short  
and we do not have much time  
to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us,  
so be quick to love and make haste to be kind.  
And rest assured that God is infinitely more concerned  
with the promise of our future  
than the mistakes of our past.  
And the grace of our Risen Savior,  
and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
be with you all, now and always. **Amen.**

**Alleluia! Christ is Risen!  
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Let take a moment to celebrate Easter!!  
Perhaps a piece of chocolate or something you love,  
or raise a glass of something sparkling.  
Alleluia! Christ is risen!*