

## Easter 4 Morning service May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020

Opening music: Ludwig von Beethoven: Symphony number 6, 1<sup>st</sup> movement

619 – tune Ode to Joy (Singing the Faith 8)

Thanks for friends who keep on loving,  
finding ways to help us grow,  
celebrating our achievements,  
sharing in our pain and woe.  
God is glimpsed where love is faithful:  
mirrored here in time and space.  
Thanks to God for friends who love us:  
Christ revealed in every face.

Other people help to shape us  
when they take the time to share  
words of wisdom, honest actions  
through our journey in God's care.  
In our faithful, honest learning  
we discover things unknown.  
Thanks to God for friends who teach us:  
seeking talent yet ungrown.

When we find our friendships challenged  
through mistakes and different views,  
we discover deeper living  
as the love of God renews.  
For in Christ we see forgiveness;  
know a strength still to embrace.  
Thanks to God for friends who keep us:  
making real the gift of grace.

Praise to God for this great gifting  
of relationship and friend:  
imaging divine relating;  
found in heaven with no end.  
Bless us Maker, Word and Spirit  
as companions on the way.

Thanks to God for friends who help us  
to fulfil our lives each day.

## Prayers

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I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky,  
I Have Heard My People Cry.  
All Who Dwell In Dark And Sin,  
My Hand Will Save.  
I Who Made The Stars Of Night,  
I Will Make Their Darkness Bright.  
Who Will Bear My Light To Them?  
Whom Shall I Send?

*Here I Am Lord, Is It I, Lord?  
I Have Heard You Calling In The Night.  
I Will Go Lord, If You Lead Me.  
I Will Hold Your People In My Heart.*

I, The Lord Of Snow And Rain,  
I Have Borne My People's Pain.  
I Have Wept For Love Of Them, They Turn Away.  
I Will Break Their Hearts Of Stone,  
Give Them Hearts For Love Alone.  
I Will Speak My Word To Them  
Whom Shall I Send?

I, The Lord Of Wind And Flame  
I Will Tend The Poor And Lame.  
I Will Set A Feast For Them,  
My Hand Will Save  
Finest Bread I Will Provide,  
Till Their Hearts Be Satisfied.  
I Will Give My Life To Them,  
Whom Shall I Send?

## **Readings:**

### **Psalm 23**

### **John 20:24-29**

### **644**

When our confidence is shaken  
In beliefs we thought secure;  
When the spirit in its sickness  
Seeks but cannot find a cure:  
God is active in the tensions  
Of a faith not yet mature.

Solar systems, void of meaning,  
Freeze the spirit into stone;  
Always our researches lead us  
To the ultimate Unknown:  
Faith must die, or come full circle  
To its source in God alone.

In the discipline of praying,  
When it's hardest to believe;  
In the drudgery of caring,  
When it's not enough to grieve;  
Faith, maturing, learns acceptance  
Of the insights we receive.

God is love; and he redeems us  
In the Christ we crucify:  
This is God's eternal answer  
To the world's eternal why;  
May we in this faith maturing  
Be content to live and die.

### **Sermon: Darkness and light**

Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne,  
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee  
and hail him as your matchless King  
through all eternity.

Crown him the Son of God,  
Before the worlds began;  
And ye who tread where he has trod,  
Crown him the Son of Man,  
Who every grief has known  
That wrings the human breast,  
And takes and bears them for his own,  
That all in him may rest

Crown him the Lord of life  
who triumphed o'er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife  
for those he came to save.  
His glories now we sing,  
who died and rose on high;  
who died eternal life to bring,  
and lives, that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of peace,  
whose power a sceptre sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,  
absorbed in prayer and praise.  
His reign shall know no end,  
and round his pierced feet  
Fair flowers of paradise extend  
Their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of love;  
behold his hands and side -  
rich wounds yet visible above,  
in beauty glorified.  
All hail, Redeemer hail!  
For thou hast died for me;  
Thy praise and glory shall not fail  
Throughout eternity

### Prayers of intercession

### Notices and Offertory

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Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be:

*Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.*

*Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Benediction

**Closing music Franz Danzi: Wind quintet in G, 3<sup>rd</sup> movement**