



Alconbury, Buckworth, Hamerton, The Giddings, The Riptons, The Stukeleys, Upton and Winwick
www.norleigh.org.uk

Readings for 26th April 3rd Sunday of Easter (Colour: White)

Collect

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy
gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge
of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened
and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually
in righteousness and truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First reading Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

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.
Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'
Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Verses from Psalm 116

Gracious is the Lord and righteous

I love the Lord,
for he has heard the voice of my supplication;
because he inclined his ear to me
on the day I called to him. **R**

The snares of death encompassed me;
the pains of hell took hold of me;
by grief and sorrow was I held.
Then I called upon the name of the Lord:
'O Lord, I beg you, deliver my soul.' **R**

How shall I repay the Lord
for all the benefits he has given to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call upon the name of the Lord.
I will fulfil my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people. **R**

Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful servants.

O Lord, I am your servant,
your servant, the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds. **R**

I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,
In the courts of the house of the Lord,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Alleluia. **R**

New Testament reading 1 Peter 1: 17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.
Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Gospel reading Luke 24: 13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then

beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Prayer for the Week

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns.
now and for ever. **Amen**

THIS WEEK

Saturday 25th 6.00pm Easter 3 Meditation posted

Sunday 26th – 9.30am - 3rd Sunday of Easter Service
(scheduled to be posted at 9.30 on all Facebook pages and on our Youtube Channel – North Leightonstone Benefice. The website will also upload the service at 9.30AM. Links to all social media are on the website so choose your viewing platform! Facebook and Youtube are live premieres which allow comments, reactions and interaction with the service)

Saturday 2nd May 6.00pm Easter 4 mediation posted

Sunday 3rd May 8.00am Act of Spiritual Communion service
9.30am - 4th Sunday of Easter service

Other events

Mondays at 10.30am – Coffee Plus by Zoom –
Alconbury's weekly coffee morning is moving to the zoom platform. Please email Jane Adams for the link to join in. ALL WELCOME.

TAKING FAITH INTO THE LOCKDOWN

We are finding new ways of being church together and have all experimented with lots of different technologies to allow this. Our weekday Morning Prayer happens by Zoom at 8.30am and this week we are re-starting Alconbury's Coffee Plus by Zoom on Mondays. Maybe others would like to have a virtual coffee morning? Or a bible study? Or a meeting to discuss church business? Please DO try out Zoom if you haven't managed to as yet. It is free software and easy to install. One of the staff team would be happy to help you if you contact us. And let us

know if there are other resources you would like. Soon, we hope to have some information on how people can give online during this time so we can make giving a part of our regular worship. More information on this coming soon.

LIGHT A VIRTUAL CANDLE

Originally set up to remember someone who has died, the Church Support Hub has the facility to light a virtual candle. You might like to do this to remember someone who is not well or is on your heart at this time. Look at <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/light-candle>

PRAYER

We are beginning to hear of people ill with COVID-19, and of family members and friends elsewhere who have died. BUT – we are also hearing of people who are having to make life-limiting choices about other kinds of medical care at this time, or whose operations have been delayed; of relatives who have died from other causes; of people who are now finding the isolation hard to bear. Please remember that the staff team are here to listen and to offer prayers, prayers at the end of life, and funeral prayers. Please pray especially for the families of Tracy Norris and Amelia Crofts whose graveside funerals are in Alconbury in early May..

Remember, also, to pray for 'your wards' at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. Please pray for the staff, who are both exhausted and overwhelmed by the emotions they are dealing with.

PHONE CALLS

It's also really important that we stay connected to those who have no link with the internet. If you know of anyone – church member or not – who needs a 'keeping in touch' phone call: do make it yourself, or let Mandy or Fiona know. In addition, some people without internet access may appreciate a hard copy of this notice sheet with the readings and/or a copy of the sermon that one of us has preached this week. We are happy to arrange delivery of that if you let us know. In addition, see below for a national initiative from the Church of England:

For those without internet in your parishes – Daily HOPE

This is an excellent national CofE initiative for those who are especially isolated: A free national phoneline **Daily HOPE** will be launched this Sunday, aimed particularly at the over 75's who don't have access to the internet. The line, launched this Sunday, will be available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**. Callers will hear a special greeting from the Archbishop of Canterbury before being able to choose from a range of options, including Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer updated daily, from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England's weekly national online service. A section called Hymn Line will also offer callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. An option entitled 'Hymns We Love', provides a hymn and reflection and is based on an initiative by Connections, a group focused on this age group. The launch this Sunday will be covered by an exclusive in The Mail on Sunday

HOLIDAYS

Jim will be having Easter break from 24th April – 1st May

Please direct phone calls appropriately. We won't be going anywhere so will keep one another informed about pastoral need.

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