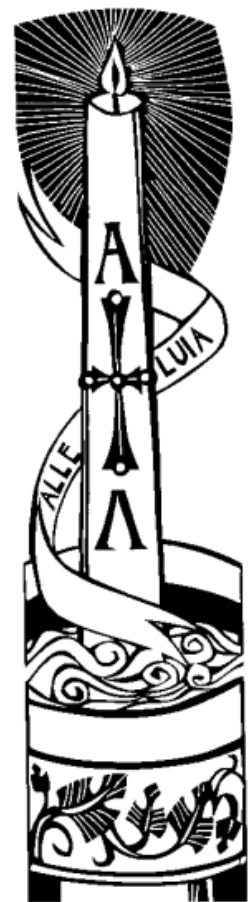




**NEWCASTLE
CATHEDRAL**



The Easter Liturgy
Saturday 4th April 2026, 7.30pm

President: The Very Rev'd Lee Batson
Preacher: The Rev'd Canon Zoe Heming

Welcome

A warm welcome to worship at Newcastle Cathedral. If you are new, or a visitor today, please make yourself known to one of the clergy after the service – it is a joy to have you with us today.

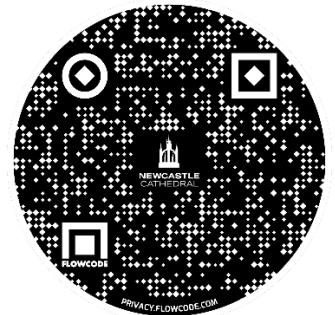
A large print copy of this booklet is available; please ask one of our welcome team at the door.

Please refrain from taking photographs during the service. Toilets are available at the far end of the Cathedral; please ask one of our welcomers if you need directions, and take care to move quietly when passing the organ loft.

During worship we are invited to sit or stand. This is only an invitation. Please move or stay seated as works best for you as we worship God together.

Giving to Newcastle Cathedral

The Cathedral needs and appreciates your financial support. A collection plate will be passed around during the service into which you can give cash or pay by card. Please give as generously as you are able. Gift Aid envelopes are available from the welcomers by the door. If you prefer, you can make a one-off donation or give regularly by scanning this QR code.



Music

Director of Music:
Assistant Director of Music:
Organ Scholar:

Ian Roberts
Kris Thomsett
James Watson

The Mass Setting

Coronation Mass

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 - 1791)

The Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil is the first service of Easter and is often held on the evening of Holy Saturday (the day before Easter Day).

It begins with the lighting of the New Fire, a symbolic expectant waiting for the resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning. The large Easter candle is lit from the fire and brought into a darkened church.

This depiction of new life and light represents Jesus' resurrection on the first Easter morning. The congregation then light their own candles from the Easter candle, representing their own new life as followers of Jesus.

The service continues with the telling of the great story of the Christian faith, and with the baptism of those who are taking their place within the family of God, before we celebrate the joyful first Eucharist of Easter.

The service begins as we gather in silence outside the front of the Cathedral.

Order of Service

The Service of Light

The president says

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy night, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the Church invites her children throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord. We remember his death and resurrection by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries, confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever in God.

The new fire may be kindled, and this prayer offered

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: set us aflame with the fire of your love, and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The deacon brings the Easter Candle to the president who marks the candle and says

Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages; to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever.

All Amen.

Incense studs are inserted into the Candle, reminding us of the five wounds of Christ.

By his holy and glorious wounds may Christ our Lord guard us and keep us.

All Amen.

The president lights the Easter Candle, saying

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

All Amen.

The minister bearing the Candle enters the building, followed by the other ministers. They pause inside the entrance. The minister raises the Candle and this acclamation and response is made.



The procession of the Easter Candle moves further into the building and then stops. The acclamation and response are repeated.

The procession continues to the centre of the building and stops once more. The acclamation and response are again repeated, and the candles of those around are lit.

The Easter Candle is placed on a stand in the midst of the nave.

The Exsultet

The Exsultet (the Easter Song of Praise) is sung. During the song of praise the following dialogue is sung.

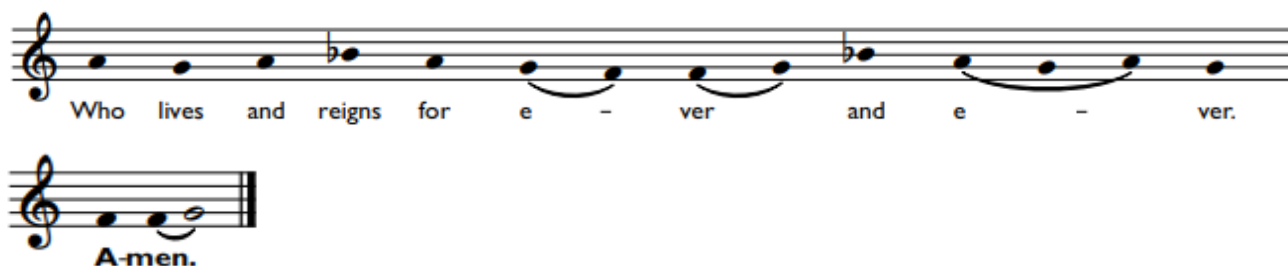


∇ The Lord be with you. ⚡ And also with you.

∇ Lift up your hearts. ⚡ We lift them to the Lord.

∇ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ⚡ It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Exsultet concludes



The President continues

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is right and good that with hearts and minds and voices we should praise you, Father almighty, the unseen God, through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who has saved us by his death, paid the price of Adam's sin, and reconciled us once again to you.

For this is the Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful.

This is the night when you first saved our ancestors, freeing Israel from her slavery and leading her safely through the sea.

This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell, broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.

This is the night when all who believe in him are freed from sin, restored to grace and holiness, and share the victory of Christ.

This is the night that gave us back what we had lost; beyond our deepest dreams you made even our sin a happy fault.

Most blessed of all nights!

Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away, lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy.

Night truly blessed, when hatred is cast out, peace and justice find a home, and heaven is joined to earth and all creation reconciled to you.

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering, grant that this Easter Candle may make our darkness light.

For Christ the morning star has risen in glory; Christ is risen from the dead and his flame of love still burns within us! Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world! Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever!

All **Amen.**

Please sit

The Vigil

The president introduces the Vigil

As we await the risen Christ, let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, recalling how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer; and let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

Readings

The following readings are read. Between each reading a psalm or a canticle is sung by the choir, and a Collect prayer is said.

The First Reading

A reading from Genesis 1: 1-2: 4a

The choir sings

Jubilate Deo, omnis terra: servite Domino in laetitia.
Intrate in conspectu eius in exultatione.
Quia Dominus ipse est Deus.

*Be joyful in the Lord, all the earth: serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before his presence with a song.
Know that the Lord is God.*

Psalm 100: 1-2a

Orlande de Lassus (c 1532–94)

Silence is kept.

Christ is the image of the unseen God;
All **through him all things were made.**

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Second Reading

A reading from Exodus 14:10-end; 15:1a

The choir sings

I will sing unto the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously:
The horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.
The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my
salvation:
This is my God and I will praise him my father's God, and I will
exalt him.
The Lord is a man of war: The Lord is his name.
Pharaoh's chariots and his host he has cast into the sea:
And his chosen officers are sunk in the Red Sea.
The floods cover them:
They went down into the depths like a stone.
Thy right hand, O Lord, is glorious in power:
Thy right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.
Thou wilt bring in thy people and plant them on thine own
mountain:
The place O Lord which thou hast made for thine abode the
sanctuary O Lord which thy hands have established.
The Lord will reign: For ever and ever.

Exodus 15:1b–3,6,10,13,17. A song of Moses and Miriam

Silence is kept.

The Lord is my strength and my might.

All **He has become my salvation.**

Lord God our redeemer, who heard the cry of your people and
sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery: free us from
the tyranny of sin and death and, by the leading of your Spirit,
bring us to our promised land; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Third Reading

A reading from the Prophecy of Zephaniah 3:14-end

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum:
ita desiderat anima mea ad te Deus.

*Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks:
so longeth my soul after thee, O God.*

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c 1525 - 94)

Psalm 42: 1

Silence is kept.

Where, O death, is your victory?

All **Where, O death, is your sting?**

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Easter Acclamation

The president says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

A joyful fanfare is played and bells are rung.

The following hymn is sung



**Light's glittering morn bedecks the sky;
heaven thunders forth its victor-cry:**

Alleluia, Alleluia.

**The glad earth shouts her triumph high,
and groaning hell makes wild reply:**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

**All praise be thine, O risen Lord,
from death to endless life restored;**

Alleluia, Alleluia.

**all praise to God the Father be
and Holy Ghost eternally:**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Tr. J M Neale (1818 - 66)

Arr. R Vaughan Williams (1872 - 1958)

The Collect

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

Silence is kept.

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity.

All **Amen.**

Please sit.

New Testament Reading

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6: 3-11

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

*Please stand to face the Gospel. This acclamation is sung.
First time: Choir; Second time: All; After sentence: All.*



I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore. **R**

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.



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.'

Matthew 28: 1-10

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Address

A short address is given.

The Liturgy of Initiation

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism.

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The president addresses the congregation

May almighty God who has given you the desire to follow Christ give you the strength to continue in the way.

The ministers move to stand around the font as the congregation sings the following

**O God, you search me, and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down, you are before me
ever the maker and keeper of my days**

**You know my resting and my rising.
You discern my purpose from afar,
and with love everlasting, you besiege me:
in ev'ry moment of life or death, you are.**

**Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
you have known its meaning through and through.
You are with me beyond my understanding:
God of my present, my past and future, too.**

**For you created me and shaped me,
gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:
safe in your hands, all creation is made new.**

Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)

Prayer over the Water

The president says

All **Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.**

All **Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptised in the river Jordan, we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us. We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the Promised Land. We thank you that through the deep waters of death you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.

Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them, bring them to new birth in the household of faith and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life; for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

All please stand, as comfortable.

Profession of Faith

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess with these candidates the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

All **I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

All **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. Amen.**

Water from the font, is sprinkled over the congregation as the choir sing

Vidi aquam egredientem de templo a latere dextro. Alleluia! Et omnes ad quos pervenit aqua ista, salvi facti sunt, et dicent: Alleluia!

I saw water coming from the temple on the right side Alleluia! And all those to whom this water comes have been saved and will say: Alleluia.

Tomás Luis de Victoria (c 1548 - 1611) Ezekiel 47: 1, 9; Psalm 118: 1

Then the president says

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptised in your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Please stand, as you are comfortable as the president introduces the Peace.

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you. Alleluia.

The deacon invites all to exchange a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

The Offertory hymn is sung as the altar is prepared, during which a collection is taken.



**Christ the Lord is risen again!
Christ hath broken every chain!
Hark, the angels shout for joy,
singing evermore on high, Alleluia!**

**He who gave for us his life,
who for us endured the strife,
is our Paschal Lamb to-day!
We too sing for joy, and say, Alleluia!**

**He who bore all pain and loss
comfortless upon the cross,
lives in glory now on high,
pleads for us, and hears our cry: Alleluia!**

**Now he bids us tell abroad
how the lost may be restored,
how the penitent forgiven,
how we too may enter heaven. Alleluia!**

**Thou, our paschal Lamb indeed,
Christ, to-day thy people feed;
take our sins and guilt away,
that we all may sing for ay, Alleluia!**

Michael Weiße (c.1480 - 1534)


NEH 105ii Adp. William Henry Monk (1823 - 1889)

The president says this offertory prayer.

Lord of life, with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise. As we are fed with the bread of heaven may we know your resurrection power; through Christ our risen Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer



♫ The Lord be with you. *R.* And al - so with you.

♫ Lift up your hearts. *R.* We lift them to the Lord.

♫ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *R.* It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and on this night of our redemption to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

The choir sings:

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth, pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis. Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

The deacon says

Great is the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

All **Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen**

Please kneel or sit.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as we join our prayers with those of the Church Universal, so we pray, each in our own language, as our Saviour taught 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

Jesus says, I am the bread of life, whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

All **Lord, our hearts hunger for you; give us this bread always.**

Giving of Communion

The president says this invitation to communion.

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Agnus Dei is sung as the bread is broken.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis;
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis;
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.*

All who normally receive the bread and wine in any church are welcome to take Holy Communion here today. Please follow the directions of the Wardens and stewards. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please bow your head and keep your hands at your sides when you come, to signal your intention. If you need to receive communion in your seat, please make this known to the Wardens or stewards. Please feel free to remain in your seat during this time.

Gluten free wafers are available; please ask if you require one. When receiving the wine, please drink from the cup.

During the distribution, the choir sings the following, otherwise, silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

The Post Communion prayer is said.

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

The Dismissal

Hymn

Please stand, as comfortable, to sing the final hymn.



**Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.**

***Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.***

**Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
Let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:**

***Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.***

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
Life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife,
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:**

***Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.***

Edmond Budry (1854 - 1932) NEH 120 Tr. Richard Hoyle (1875 - 1939)

The president uses this blessing.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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

All Amen.

God the Son, who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

All Amen.

God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

The deacon says

With the risen life of Christ within you, go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

The ministers and choir depart.

*You are then invited to sit for the duration of the organ voluntary:
Incantation pour un jour saint* *Jean Langlais (1907 - 1991)*

Thank you for joining us in worship today. You are warmly invited to take this order of service home with you, which has been printed on recycled paper.

Please join us now for refreshments.

If you are new, or a visitor,
we hope that we will see you again soon.

Happy Easter!
Christ is Risen, Alleluia!

The Rev'd Canon Ruth Hulse
**Canon for Worship &
Congregational Life**

The Very Rev'd Lee Batson
The Dean

The Rev'd Canon Zoe Heming
Canon for Mission

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