



28th April 2024
5th Sunday of Easter

St James' Church
www.stjamesexeter.org Exeter

Rector

Fr Henry Pryse 01392 431297
Day off: Thursday

Parish Office 01392 420407
office@stjamesexeter.org
Charity register number: 1128877

Big Cream Tea

On Sunday 19th May we invite friends and neighbours to join us for a free cream tea. Please add your name to the list at the back of the church if you are able to offer scones and/or jam for the event. To make a cash donation towards the cost of the bouncy castle, please see one of the churchwardens.



This Week

Morning Prayer is said at 8.30 am
Online: Mon, Wed
In the church: Tue, Thu, Fri

Mon 29th April John 14: 21 – 26

10.15 pm Holy Communion,
The Old Rectory

7.00 pm Choir practice

Tue 30th April John 14: 27 – 31

2.30 pm Churchwardens meet

7.00 pm Deanery Synod, St Matt's

Wed 1st May John 14: 1 – 14

12.00 noon Eucharist

3.30 pm Messy Church:
10th Anniversary Celebration

Thu 2nd May John 15: 9 – 11

7.30 pm Fr Brian's house group

Fri 3rd May John 15: 12 – 17

2.00 pm Craft group

Sat 4th May John 12: 20 – 26

Next Sunday: 5th May

Sixth Sunday of Easter

John 15: 9 – 17

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

4.00 pm Celebrate Together

6.00 pm Evening Prayer & Benediction

10.00 am Music

Processional hymn 120

Offertory hymn 428

Communion anthem

Recessional hymn 499

Music Setting: Mass of St Thomas (by David Thorne)

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

Love Divine

He is Risen (by Percy Whitlock)

O Lord, My God

Sharing God's love through worship, fellowship and service

Collect

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading: Acts 8: 26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Second Reading: 1 John 4: 7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Gospel Reading: John 15: 1-8

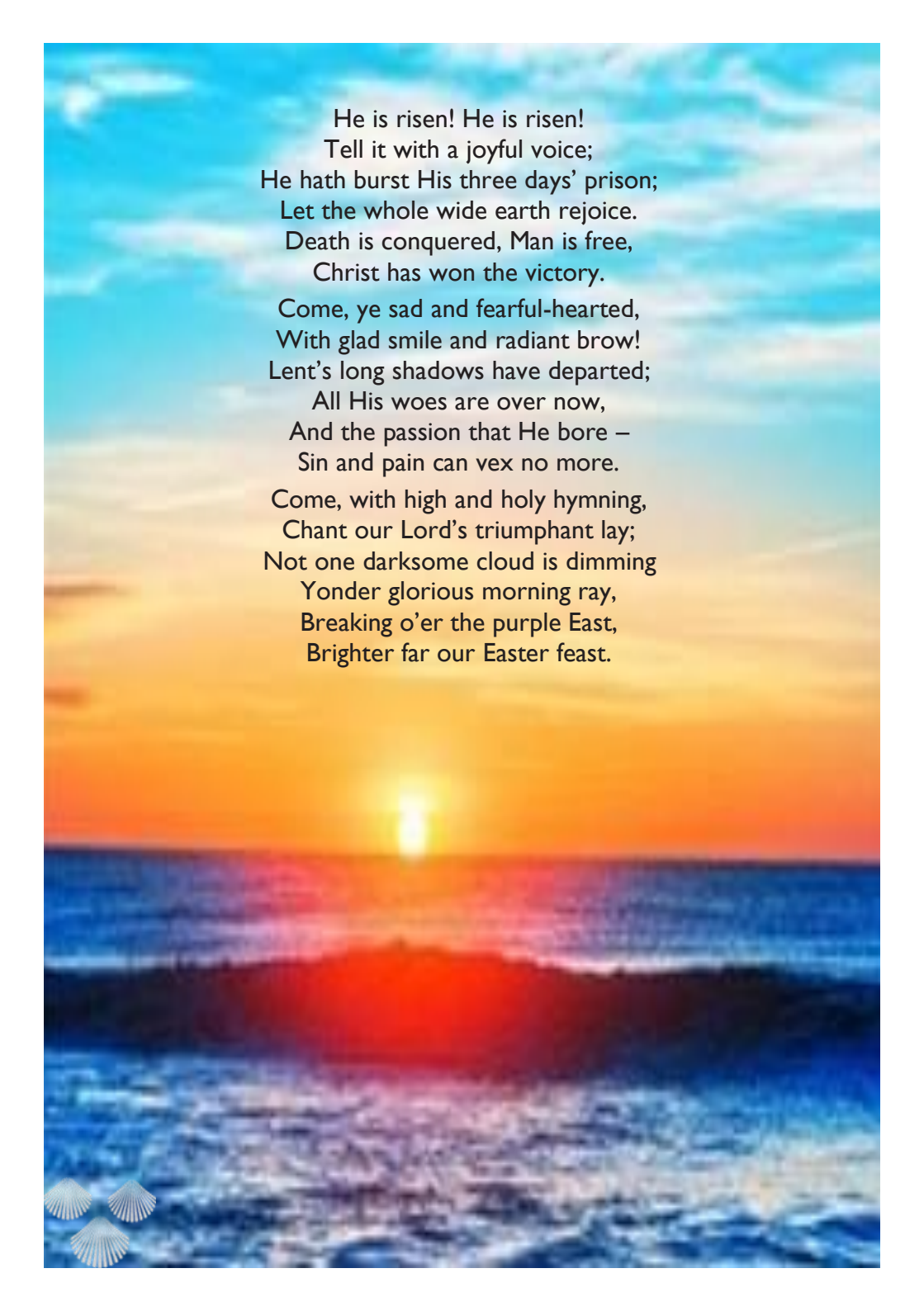
Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'



Post-Communion Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.





He is risen! He is risen!
Tell it with a joyful voice;
He hath burst His three days' prison;
Let the whole wide earth rejoice.
Death is conquered, Man is free,
Christ has won the victory.
Come, ye sad and fearful-hearted,
With glad smile and radiant brow!
Lent's long shadows have departed;
All His woes are over now,
And the passion that He bore –
Sin and pain can vex no more.
Come, with high and holy hymning,
Chant our Lord's triumphant lay;
Not one darksome cloud is dimming
Yonder glorious morning ray,
Breaking o'er the purple East,
Brighter far our Easter feast.

