

The Church of

King Charles the Martyr



The Easter Liturgy

Please leave in
the church.

A warm welcome to King Charles the Martyr, Tunbridge Wells

An especially warm welcome if you are new with us this morning or have not been for a while; it is good to have you with us.



The Easter Liturgy

From earliest times Christians have gathered through the night of Easter to recall the story of God's saving work, from creation through to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. However, the Easter Liturgy is not merely a presentation of God's work. It is meant to be a real experience of new life for the worshipper, a passing from darkness to light which offers hope to all the faithful. It is therefore important that the preparation is prayerful and thorough. The Easter Vigil marks the end of the emptiness of Holy Saturday, and leads into the celebration of Christ's resurrection. The singing of the Exsultet, the ancient hymn of triumph and rejoicing, links this night of our Christian redemption to the Passover night of Israel's redemption out of Egypt. Christian baptism is a participation in the death and resurrection of Christ, a dying to sin in order to be reborn in him, and the Easter Vigil was from early Christian times a preferred occasion for baptism. It is fittingly a time when those who are already Christians may repeat with renewed commitment the promises of their own baptism, and strengthen their sense of incorporation into the royal and priestly ministry of the whole people of God. The Easter Gospel is proclaimed with all the joy and splendour that the church can find.

Please join us for breakfast in the Church Hall after the service.



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The congregation assembles around the Easter Fire in the hall car park. The clergy make their way from the church to meet the people at 6am.

The Vigil

Priest Brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which through word and sacrament we share in his victory over death.

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.

Priest 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.

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 forever.

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

The president lights the Paschal candle and says

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

The Gospel

Deacon Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according
to *N.*

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Easter Gospel is Proclaimed

Deacon This is the Gospel of the Lord

All **Praise to you O Christ.**

*After the Gospel the congregation move to the unlit church.
When all have entered, the minister bears the Paschal candle
into the church, pausing at the back. The candle is raised and
the minister says:*

Priest The light of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God**

*The minister moves a short way up the nave. The words are
repeated:*

Priest The light of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God**

The minister moves up to the chancel step.

Priest The light of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God**

The candle is placed in its stand in the chancel and the candles of the congregation are lit. The president says:

Priest Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Exultet

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing choirs of angels!

Exult, all creation around God's throne!

Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,
radiant in the brightness of your King!

Christ has conquered! Glory fill you!

Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!

The risen Saviour shines upon you!

Let this place resound with joy,

Echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

Priest The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

Priest Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Priest It is indeed right that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise you, the unseen God, the Father Almighty, and your only Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who has ransomed us by his death, and paid for us the price of Adam's sin. For this is the Passover of that true Lamb of God, by whose blood the homes of all the faithful are hallowed and protected.

This is the night when of old you saved our fathers,
delivering the people of Israel from their slavery,
and leading them dry shod through the sea.

This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell
and rose triumphant from the grave.

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

Most blessed of all nights, when wickedness is put
to flight and sin is washed away, lost innocence
regained, and mourning turned to joy.

Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of this night,
accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn
offering; and grant this Easter candle make our
darkness light; for Christ the morning star has risen,
never again to set, and is alive and reigns for ever
and ever.

All

Amen.

Hymn, Jesus Christ is Risen Today

(Sung by the choir only)

Collect

Priest

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 sinn 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

New Testament Reading Romans 6:3-11

Gradual Psalm

- ¹ When Israel went out from Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,
² Judah became God's* sanctuary,
Israel his dominion.
³ The sea looked and fled;
Jordan turned back.
⁴ The mountains skipped like rams,
the hills like lambs.
⁵ Why is it, O sea, that you flee?
O Jordan, that you turn back?
⁶ O mountains, that you skip like rams?
O hills, like lambs?
⁷ Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
⁸ who turns the rock into a pool of water,
the flint into a spring of water.

Sermon

The Initiation

A large shell is filled with Holy Water on the Altar.

Priest 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, so that we may rise with him to a new life within the family of his church. Now that we have completed our observance of Lent, we renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil.

Priest Therefore I ask these questions:
Do you turn to Christ?

All I turn to Christ.

All Do you repent of your sins?
I repent of my sins.

All Do you renounce evil?
I renounce evil

And now I ask you to make the profession of the Christian faith into which you were baptised, and in which you live and grow.

All Do you believe and trust in God the Father who made the world?
I believe and trust in him.

All Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ who redeemed mankind?
I believe and trust in him.

All Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit who gives life the people of God?
I believe and trust in him.

All This is the faith of the Church.
This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Priest Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all those 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.**

The Eucharist

The Peace

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

All Alleluia! The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you, Alleluia!

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Hymn (Sung by the choir only)

The Preparation of the Table

The bread and wine are placed on the holy table. These words are used.

Priest Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty.

All **For everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you and of your own do we give you.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Priest The Lord is here, *Or* The Lord be with you,
All **his Spirit is with us.** **and also with you.**

All Lift up your hearts,
We lift them to the Lord.

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

This or an alternative preface is prayed

Priest 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:

**All 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.**

Priest Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

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.

Deacon Great is the mystery of faith

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

Priest And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole
world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious
ascension, and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and
thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your
presence and serve you. Send the Holy Spirit on your
people and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Priest Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

Priest We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread

Agnus Dei

All Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world,
have mercy on us
grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

Priest Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The president and people receive communion.

After Communion

Priest Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the powers of darkness, and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy.

All Amen.

**All Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Blessing and Dismissal

Priest Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Priest The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Hymn thine be the Glory (Sung by the choir only.)

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!
Alleluia!

All In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!