

Morning Worship for 10th May 2020 at 10.30am

Easter 5

Good morning everyone and welcome to worship in these extraordinary times when we are the church but are not in church.

Find a comfy place to worship in your home, maybe light a candle to help you in your reflections, and remember that God is present with us as we gather in his name, and that wherever we are, we are the body of Christ.

Opening Prayer:- *(Prayers adapted from Roots)*

Dear Lord, as we gather in your name, listen to us and bring us peace; be our rock and our refuge, that we may be strong; let your face shine upon us, that we may show your love. Amen

Hymn STF 489 All I once held dear, built my life upon,
All this world reveres or wars to own, all I once thought gain,
I have counted loss; spent and worthless now, compared to this.
*Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you. There is no greater thing.
You're my all, you're the best, you're my joy, my righteousness,
And I love you, Lord.*

Now my heart's desire is to know you more, to be found in you
and known as yours. To possess by faith what I cannot earn,
all-surpassing gift of righteousness.

Oh, to know the power of your risen life, and to know you in your sufferings.
To become like you in your death, my Lord, so with you to live and never die.
Graham Kendrick (b.1950)

Prayer: Together, Lord, we come to seek the "Jesus way". May your truth fill us with wisdom to see your presence in all we do. And may we receive new life, that we may serve you in all that we are. Forgive us for what is past and protect us from all that is to come. Amen

We say the Lord's Prayer together.....

Bible Reading for today: John 14 v.1-14 (if you do not have Bible to hand this is part of a long conversation called "The Discourses" in John's Gospel between Jesus and his disciples before his death on the cross. Jesus tries to explain all that is going to happen to him and to them, but of course, they do not fully understand.

Reflection: Usually read at funerals, this is a towering piece of scripture that really speaks to us in these times of fear, uncertainty and loss. In early March Fred and I joined some of our family for a few days holiday in Suffolk. We had never been to this area of the country before, so Fred set up the Satnav to guide us to our destination. Unfortunately, it failed us spectacularly and we were forced to resort to a good old-fashioned map. How would we find the way? In this section of John's Gospel Jesus reminds his dear friends that even

after his death and resurrection, he will be the way for them if they continue to faithfully follow him, that his way through life was the only way. In these dark times when it is hard to process all the information and advice given to us about Covid 19 and to know where to put our trust; we are reminded that Jesus is also the truth that guides and steers us through on our faith journey and that the life he offers to all believers is life everlasting. As we continue to need the strength of God's love in our lives like never before we are encouraged to follow in the "Jesus way" holding onto the truth of Jesus' promises to each one of us. May God help us to be directed in these times of crises by his love and grace alone. And so, we pray: Show me your way oh God; help me to know your truth, and to live your life. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Loving, guiding God we pray today for all the areas in this beautiful world where there is great need. Those lives affected by war, violence and greed. Those who are far from home and living in refugee camps. And this week especially we pray for the work of Christian Aid and other charities trying to alleviate this suffering.

We pray for all those who live in homes that are not places of safety. Victims of domestic violence and abuse, and those suffering with mental ill health. Lord Jesus, we pray for all who have died of the Covid 19 virus in hospital, in care, or at home and for their grieving family and friends who cannot say goodbye as they would have wished.

We pray for all NHS workers, and all key workers in their self-giving care.

We pray for our families and friends, separate from us now, and for our church family near to us through the mystery of worship.

We pray that we would continue to follow in your way. In the name of our risen Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Hymn: STF 503

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesu, thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;

Let us see thy great salvation, perfectly restored in thee:

Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,

Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Blessing: The Blessing of God the Father, God the Risen Son and God the Holy Spirit, be with us now and always. Amen