

## *In & around the Benefice....*

*24th May | Seventh Sunday of Easter*

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*Please visit our website for information on worship during the lockdown*

<http://www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.co.uk/worship/worship-during-the-lockdown>



A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers

The Daily Hope **free** phone line offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

Revd Janet and Revd Amanda are having a Sunday off from grappling with technology to produce a service. As we are in interregnum, our Rural Dean, Revd Eddie Smith from Cogenhoe, expects to be more involved with us and to be keeping a gentle eye on how we are doing, so he has offered us his Spiritual Communion service for this week.

Please either Google **YouTube Rev Eddie Smith** or follow the link on the website.

All the liturgy appears on the screen for you to join in with, so no service sheet here this week.

Next week, we will be having our own service for Pentecost Sunday, with a sermon for us from Bishop Donald.

### **Please hold in your prayers this week:**

- ◇ Those suffering from, affected by or working to prevent the spread of Coronavirus, including the NHS, council workers, teachers in schools offering childcare for those who work in key jobs.
- ◇ NHS staff caring for Covid-19 patients, that they may have strength and resilience for their task, and be kept safe.
- ◇ Persecuted Christians across the world, especially in North Korea
- ◇ Those in residential care and the housebound, among them: Audrey Desborough, Ruth Williams, Gwen York, Ann and Colin Dix
- ◇ Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them: Chris Sayles, Tom Stock, Nicholas Vaughan, Freddie Hogan, Mandy Bates, Mhairi Boyde, Anne Blackmore, Bishop John and his wife Elizabeth
- ◇ The recently departed, amongst them Julie Quilter, Jennifer Barry-Murray and all who grieve at this time



I had a Sunday School teacher when I was little – Miss Gleave – who prayed for all of us kids. I met her again a few months ago; it was so lovely for both of us. She is a lot smaller than I recall (or perhaps I'm a lot bigger...), but she's still praying. Not for me and my friends now, I suppose, but for others. God bless Miss Gleave, she brought me to know Jesus. Maybe there was someone like her in your background?

This past week saw Ascension Day, when we remember Jesus leaving his disciples and ascending back to heaven. Rather like Christmas in reverse! It is also the beginning of the period we have in the past few years called Thy Kingdom Come, a worldwide prayer movement for the period between Ascension and Pentecost. As Jesus ascended, he promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to enable the disciples to be witnesses to those around them, and then to the world. The Acts reading shows them waiting for the promise to be fulfilled by devoting themselves to prayer, and so we are called upon to do the same.

We are encouraged to bring five individuals in prayer to God, that they might come to know Jesus' love and the presence of God for themselves. If there are people – friends, family, colleagues, you name it – who you would long to encounter God's love, why not take this time up to next Sunday and commit yourself to pray for them each day? (don't tell anyone – you could carry on after then!) If you're not sure what to pray, why not light a candle, think of the person and say quietly "God bless ...."? As simple as that! God knows their heart and yours. And while you're about it, say a prayer for our churches, that we will know the power of God's Spirit as those early disciples did! Look for "Thy Kingdom Come" on the internet, to find all sorts of interesting daily podcasts, videos, prayers and songs for all ages.

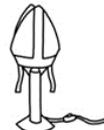
Just to make you smile.....

## MITRES

USES DURING A PANDEMIC



MASK



LAMPSHADE



POPCORN HOLDER



HANGING BASKET



GLOVE



PIPING BAG



MEASURING DEVICE



OVEN MITT



TEA COSY



BUNTING



WASTE PAPER BASKET



KITE



PUPPET



BELLOWS



RAINBOW

## The Collect

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

**Amen**

## First Reading

*Ezekiel 36: 24-28*

I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

*Acts 1: 6-14*

When the apostles had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.' Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading

*John 17: 1-11*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord**

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Prayer

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**