

REFLECTIVE SERVICE: FOR WORSHIP IN ISOLATION SUNDAY 8th MAY 2022 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

WORSHIP REVIEW (5)

Following a recent Review, certain changes have been made regarding Guidance for Worship in all our Churches.

- An Offertory plate will be brought forward – please leave offerings in the plate as you enter church.
- Communion will be shared at the altar rail in both kinds from 19 June (in All Saints' this is the main altar rail only).
We kindly ask you not to dip the wafers if you prefer not to drink from the chalice as the gluten free wafers disintegrate very easily. If you prefer to take communion in one kind only, the bread, please simply return to your seat after being offered the wafer so that the officiant knows. It is entirely what you feel comfortable with as we move forward.
- The wearing of masks and hand sanitising are still encouraged
- The sharing of the Peace has been reviewed and at this time we will continue to do this at a distance. This will be reviewed again shortly.

Thank you all for your continued patient understanding and support of one another.

Mark May 2022

Other notices

All Saints' Morning Praise will be held in the Millennium Garden in June, July and August weather permitting. Please do bring chairs though some will be provided for those who cannot carry them.

All Saints' Holy Communion, first, third and fourth Sundays at 10.30am.

St Mary's 2.30pm, second Sunday of the month.

St Nicholas', 2.30pm, first Sunday of each month

St Aidan's, third Sunday Holy Communion BCP at 8.45 am

St Michael's Morning Praise at 11.00am on the first Sunday of the month and Holy Communion (Common Worship) at 11.00am on the third Sunday of the month.

For more details, please check Surprise View or the web site. We will endeavour to make sure that any changes to the regular pattern are notified

Hand sanitisers are still available, and we invite you to use them.

We invite you still to record your presence if you wish.

All churches are open during daylight hours for private prayer.

As we meet together in spirit through these words of praise, may we think of and pray for each other sharing this reflection and also pray for those meeting to worship together.

We come from scattered lives to meet with God. Let us recognise God's presence with us now.

Keep a short silence, still your heart. You may like to light a candle

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'. Be with us today, as we offer ourselves to you. Hear our prayers for others and for ourselves and keep us in your care.

Amen.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people, and kindle in us the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

In the light of Jesus, let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Keep a short silence. Confession:

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Absolution:

May God have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days. Amen.

Collect for Fourth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Read a passage from the Bible

The Gospel of John 10.22-30

²² At that time the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ The Father and I are one."

Reflection

**REFLECTION FOR SUNDAY MAY 8TH
4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
TEXTS – The Acts of the Apostles Ch.9.v.36 – end
The Gospel of John Ch.10. v.22-30**

Easter is more than a single day – we celebrate the season of Easter for six weeks!

So what does it mean to live in these days of Easter, ‘*in the light of the resurrection*’?

Both our texts today continue to show what this new life in God looks like.

In the weeks after Easter, our readings come from the Acts of the Apostles to show us how the new church grows and spreads following Jesus’ death and resurrection.

This week, in Chapter 9, we hear the story of Tabitha.

Following her death, Peter is summoned to give thanks for her life and to pray over her body (Acts 9.38-40).

As he does so, she opens her eyes, sits up and Peter helps her to her feet (9.40-41).

This episode is then widely talked about (as you might imagine!), and we are told that ‘*many believed in the Lord*’ (9.42).

Our other reading is from the Gospel of John and is part of the well-known passage in which Jesus talks of himself as ‘the Good Shepherd’.

Jesus’ sheep are those who hear his voice (John 10.27) - those who follow him (10. 27). In return, they receive eternal life in God (10.28-30).

The story of Tabitha illustrates this.

Tabitha lived a good and virtuous life (9.36), and following her death received the gift of eternal life. *It is interesting to note that she receives this gift through Peter, one of Jesus’ disciples.*

In other words, as we seek to follow Christ, we too live as ‘sheep to his shepherd’ - giving and receiving blessing from each other on the way. The Kingdom of God is spread through us.

This week, think about those you meet –

*How are they a blessing to you? And how can you be a blessing to them?
Where do you see signs of God's kingdom and new life emerging?*

Mark

We affirm our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

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

We intercede for others in the quiet of our hearts.

Lord, meet us in the silence

And hear our prayer.

Silence for prayer is kept: Pray for yourself in your isolation, that you would know God is with you. Pray for others in their loneliness. Pray for our country. Pray for the world.

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.

Silence is kept

O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

“For God has said, ‘I will not leave you or forsake you’ so we can confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear’.” (*Hebrews 13:5-6*)

“It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not be dismayed.” (*Deuteronomy 31:8*)

*Please God, we can **all** meet together in church again, soon.*