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## Loop Special – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter – 26 April 2020

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**SUNDAY'S READINGS: Ps 116.1-7; Acts 2.14a + 36-41; Luke 24.13-35**

Readings in full and a reflection will be on the website under NEWS.

### **The Collect**

Almighty Father,  
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples  
with the sight of the risen Lord:  
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,  
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life  
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### **FROM THIS WEEKEND - TWO NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAYING IN TOUCH!**

#### **Receive a Weekly Message via your phone!**

From this weekend, **Severn Loop has a dedicated Shrewsbury phone number** that you can ring from an ordinary phone to hear one of the team offering you a message – it may include a short Bible reading and thought, prayer and possibly even a hymn to listen to. Hannah has been busy this week setting this up for us and it is her voice you will hear if you dial in to listen! Huge thanks to Hannah for getting this off the ground. If you call the number, it will cost you less than a penny a minute to listen to what we hope will be a weekly message. The Shrewsbury area number is **01743 298285**. We hope to have a separate local line for those of you with the 01939 area code up and running as well next week. This will help us support those in our communities who don't have the technology or adequate broadband to pick up what is going out via email and the website. But if you do have access via broadband to our other means of communication, **please continue to use that so we can give priority on the phone line to those who don't**. And please note, callers won't be able to leave messages on this new line, so continue to use the numbers at the top of this page to contact members of the team.

#### **Online Worship this Sunday 26 April at 6 pm!**

If you have the technology, you are invited to join a time of worship via Zoom on Sunday evening. Hannah and I are experiencing infuriating drops in the level of broadband, so Peter will be hosting this time together – thank you Peter! Some of you have become familiar with Zoom meetings already. There will be a short time of sharing and then the chance to join together in a shortened form of Evening Prayer. You'll need to find this on our website and print it out, so you can have the words in front of you but also keep the Zoom screen view. Look for it on Saturday or during the day on Sunday. Your invitation to join the meeting is here:

Peter Allan is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Peter Allan's Zoom Meeting Time: Apr 26, 2020 06:00 PM London

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71889840604>**

**Meeting ID: 718 8984 0604**

## OUR VIRTUAL JAR OF BLESSINGS

Within this time of extraordinary crisis, there are also blessings to be found.

Here are some shared with us this week:

*The desire of people to help*

*The Joy of Painting on BBC4 - a classic, and soothing for the soul!*

*Community pulling together*

*Waking up to a tray of eggs on the doorstep as a gift*

*Butterflies starting to appear*

*Watching the birds in the window box*

*Lots of plants and flowers thriving- leaves on the potato plants, bluebells, Lily of the Valley, Lilac*

*Every day is a blessing*

*Technology! It means so much that we are able to share each others company and its' a blessing to see everyone's happy faces. And of course it is the wonderful NHS staff who have all the technology of modern medical care.*

*Phone calls from dear friends out of the blue, one after another, when I was feeling desperately low. Unexpected angels.*

*Relief from tremendous anxiety about a loved one's health - good news following tests.*



From someone who is ill or isolated  
O God,  
Help me to trust you,  
Help me to know that you are with me,  
Help me to believe  
That nothing can separate me  
From your love  
Revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

We give thanks for all of these blessings. Keep sharing them!  
We are also very conscious that there are many people  
for whom life is all darkness right now.  
Here are some prayers.

For those whose world is dark  
God of compassion,  
Be close to those who are ill, afraid  
or in isolation.  
In their loneliness, be their consolation;  
In their anxiety, be their hope;  
in their darkness, be their light;  
through him who suffered alone  
on the cross,  
but reigns with you in glory,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

For those who are ill  
Merciful God,  
We entrust to your tender care  
Those who are ill or in pain,  
Knowing that whenever danger threatens  
Your everlasting arms  
Are there to hold them safe.  
Comfort and heal them,  
And restore them to health and strength;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



Stay safe in the coming days. We are praying for all our  
communities and congregations. You are not forgotten.  
If any of you would like special prayer for yourselves or  
anyone you care about, please get in touch.

Come follow Christ  in the footsteps of St Chad  
Know the Story Share the Story Live the Story