

# The Parish of Gornal and Sedgley

All Saints, Sedgley  
St Andrew, The Straits  
St Peter, Upper Gornal



Welcome to your  
Easter Celebration in Isolation  
3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020

We hope that we will all be able to pray this liturgy at home.  
It would be great to pray at the same time if we are able to at  
1030 am on Sunday, join us via Zoom for coffee at 11:30.

*And so we pray:*

Christ has brought us out of darkness; to live in his marvelous light.  
Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Jesus who held all creation in the hollow of his hand  
was held by the pains of death; but now he is risen!

He who covered the heavens with his glory  
was covered by burial wrappings; but now he is risen from the dead!

He who held the keys of death and hell  
was held by a gravestone; but now the stone is rolled away!

He who was Life, was dead; but now Jesus is alive!

We praise you, we worship you, we live with your living presence, every day,  
all the day. Thanks be to God!

*We sing or listen to our first hymn All creatures of our God and King*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtT3SRnnG0I&t=67s>

*We say sorry to God,*

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice  
by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and  
true heart.

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for  
our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection. In your mercy, forgive us. Lord, hear us and help us.  
We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing. In your mercy, forgive us. Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven. In your mercy, forgive us. Lord, hear us and help us.

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*We sing Glory to God: Be still for the presence of the Lord*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZugvUQ4m90U>

## **The Collect Prayer**

God of glory,  
By the raising of your Son  
You have broken the chains of death and hell: Fill your Church with faith and hope;  
For a new day has dawned  
And the way to life stands open  
In our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

*The readings from the Bible.*

## **Acts 2:42-end**

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

## **Life among the Believers**

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in

common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

## 1 Peter 2:19-end

<sup>19</sup> For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup> 'He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.'

<sup>23</sup> When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

*After the Bible readings:* This is the word of the Lord; thanks be to God.

*We sing our next hymn: The Lords my Shepherd*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-elQQayhpak>

*Before the Gospel reading:*

Alleluia, alleluia, Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in me, though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die". Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *John*:

Glory to you, O Lord.

## **John 10:1-10**

### **Jesus the Good Shepherd**

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

*After a Gospel reading:* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*Audio podcast can be accessed via link below, paste URL into search on your computer or read transcript*

<https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news/2020/04/27/sermon-podcast-easter-4-2020/>

## Key Thought

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10)

Hi, I'm Fr Tim Williams, Team Rector of Kidderminster West.

I love watching cookery programmes and in this lockdown I've found some new recipes which I've tried with varying success. I also watch the cookery programmes the recipes from which I wouldn't stand a chance of recreating. One such series is the Great British menu. Chefs put together a menu inspired, this year, by children's books. They compete to have their dishes included in a banquet.

One of the inspirational books was *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. It tells the story of Mary Lennox, an unwanted and unloved little girl, born to British parents in India. Mary was a "sickly, fretful, ugly little baby", who was kept out of the way of her parents as far as possible and who turned into a "sickly, fretful" toddler, spoiled by the servants who cared for her in order to keep her quiet. By the time Mary was six she was "tyrannical and selfish". When Mary's parents and all the servants died during a cholera epidemic, Mary was sent to live in England with her uncle, Archibald Craven, at Misselthwaite Manor in Yorkshire. By the end of the novel, Mrs Medlock, the head of the servants, is describing Mary as "downright pretty" and "healthy looking" with "a bright colour". So how does this character become so much more agreeable by the end of the novel? How does the author achieve such a transformation in Mary?

Misselthwaite Manor a sprawling old estate with over one hundred rooms, most of which have been shut up by Archibald Craven. A man whom everyone describes as miserable. Craven has been in a state of inconsolable grief ever since the death of his wife ten years before the novel begins. Not long after arriving, Mary heard about a secret garden from one of the servants, Martha Sowerby. This garden belonged to Mary's late aunt. After she died, Archibald locked the garden door and buried the key. When she heard about it, Mary became determined to find it. In order to do this, she had to get outside and engage with the world. She made friends with Old Ben the gardener, Dickon and Susan Sowerby who lived on the moor, and a robin who helped her to find the key to the secret garden. Next she started

to tend the garden with the help of her friends. But the garden was not the only discovery Mary made. She also discovered that she had a cousin, Colin, who had been bedridden since birth. Colin's father couldn't bear to look at him because Colin reminded him of his wife. As a result, Colin had become a spoilt hypochondriac. Mary now became a transformative presence in Colin's life, taking him to enjoy the secret garden, introducing him to the friends she had made and, with their encouragement, he learnt to walk.

When the children passed through the door into the secret garden their lives began to be transformed. In choosing to pass through this gateway, they were committing to a new way of life. Here is Colin's reaction when Mary and Dickon took him through the doorway and into the garden for the first time: "... in wonder Mary and Dickon stood and stared at him he looked so strange and different because a pink glow of colour had actually crept all over him – ivory face and neck and hands and all. 'I shall get well! I shall get well!' he cried out... 'And I shall live for ever and ever and ever!'"

This is what Jesus promises us if we choose to go through the gate: "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." Our decision to pass through the gate into Jesus' care requires a commitment by us as described in today's first reading from Acts, where we hear that the men and women of the early Church lived and ate and worshipped together "with glad and generous hearts". If we choose to live in fellowship with those who believe in Jesus, our faith and commitment are rewarded. Being inside the sheepfold, choosing a gateway to fellowship, will have a transformative influence on our own lives too, enriching us.

This isn't possible at the moment and I know how much people I've spoken to are missing the fellowship. Its great that we can join together virtually. But after all this is I over there will be a new normal and no doubt we'll do things differently but I think there's no substitute for human contact and coming together if we can -taking church out to those who can't.

Through the transformative decision to pass through the gateway into the secret garden, Mary Lennox and Colin Craven become healthier, happier, more lovable children. By living out the Gospel. Jesus promises us life, and wants us to live our lives to the full. As in the example of Mary and Colin, described in *The Secret Garden*, and in the example of the men and women

of the early Church, described in Acts, this doesn't mean having and doing whatever we want. I think over the past weeks we've rediscovered that Far from shutting ourselves away from one another, Christianity is about living in fellowship, sharing and caring for one another, with gladness and generosity. How can we, as the children of God, achieve the same transformation as Mary and Colin?

How do we, especially in adversity, share God's love and care for one another?

***We believe,***

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he was buried;  
he was raised to life on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers,  
and to all the apostles:  
this we have received, and this we believe.  
Amen.

## *We pray for the Church and for the world*

Let us pray to God, who alone makes us dwell in safety:

For all who are affected by coronavirus,  
through illness or isolation or anxiety,  
that they may find relief and recovery:  
Lord, hear us, Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,  
and shaping national policies, that they may make wise decisions:  
Lord, hear us, Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,  
that through their skill and insights  
many will be restored to health:  
Lord, hear us, Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful,  
for the gravely ill and the dying,  
that they may know your comfort and peace:  
Lord, hear us, Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,  
to the mercy and protection of God, praying,  
Merciful Father,  
accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

## *We pray for Christ's Peace*

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, "Peace be with you".

Then they were glad when they saw the Lord, Alleluia.

May we all know the peace of the risen Lord today and always.

Jesus taught us to call God our Father, so we have courage to say:

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your Kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive  
those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now  
and for ever.  
Amen.

Alleluia, Christ is risen, He is risen indeed. Alleluia

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
He has given us new life and hope.  
He has raised Jesus from the dead.  
God has claimed us as his own.  
He has brought us out of darkness.  
He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia, Christ is risen, He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

*We pray for God's Blessing:*

May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future, fill us with his new life;  
and may the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us all now and forever more  
Amen.

*We sing our final hymn: He who would valiant be*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJhtviWxK4U>

May we all go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
In the name of Christ, Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Amen.



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*April 2020*