

# The Benefice of St George's, Benenden & St Nicholas, Sandhurst

## Our Worship: Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March

### The Fifth Sunday of Lent - Passiontide Begins

**Collect:** Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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.

Public worship is suspended and all church buildings locked until further notice.

#### Weekly Prayer & Communion during lockdown & suspension of services:

This Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, I will be taking Communion on our behalf at the Rectory.

I encourage you to join me *"in spirit"*.

I hope to have a recording of the service plus a copy of the service booklet.

Keep watching the Church websites and Facebook pages.

My hope is that we will all be able to gather in our own homes, at 10 o'clock and share, remotely, the Eucharist.

The links are as follows:

Service booklet:

<https://1drv.ms/b/s!Agk8nXuU17kgnfleKS7yRA0syHNg?e=uSMQwi>

(copy service sheet attached below)

Video: <https://youtu.be/qaMx1wcnzKY>

I will also send this information out to the church-family by email as a back up to the website information. Revd David

#### **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday:**

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 8am | Morning Prayer<br>conducted by Revd David Commander at the Rectory |
| 5pm | Evening Prayer<br>conducted by Revd David Commander at the Rectory |

## **Readings: Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

### **Romans 8.6-11**

<sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

### **John 11.1-45**

#### ***The Death of Lazarus***

<sup>11</sup>Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' <sup>4</sup>But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' <sup>5</sup>Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup>But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' <sup>11</sup>After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' <sup>13</sup>Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup>For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' <sup>16</sup>Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

#### ***Jesus the Resurrection and the Life***

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' <sup>27</sup>She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

#### ***Jesus Weeps***

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup>When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' <sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

### **Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life**

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

### **The Plot to Kill Jesus**

<sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

### **New information regarding St. George's & St Nicholas Church & The Mission Church:**

**Our church buildings are now be closed – but our church is alive and active.**

The inner doors of our Churches are now locked, with a notice explaining this on the door.

#### **Prayer:**

Although the buildings are closed, **it is important that you know that prayer is still happening every day.** I will be saying Morning Prayer at 8am and Evening Prayer at 5pm, Monday to Saturday, at the Rectory. Please join me **"in spirit"** to pray for our community, our nation, and the world. I will be using this resource: "Worship at Home"; follow this link: [https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/midweek\\_worship\\_at\\_home\\_0.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/midweek_worship_at_home_0.pdf) for a copy of the Daily Prayer. **If there is something particular you would like prayer for, please send me an email or give me a call.**

**On Sunday I will be taking Communion on our behalf – at the Rectory. I encourage you to join me "in spirit". I hope to have a recording of the service available here, plus a copy of the service booklet. Keep watching this space. My hope is that we will all be able to gather in our own homes, at 10 o'clock and share, remotely, the Eucharist.**

#### **Care:**

***"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength . . . Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."* (Mark 12:30-31)**

Now really is the time to care for your neighbour. Please, pick up the phone, speak to them. We are a strong community, a caring community. Together we will get through this.

Finally, I encourage you to use these prayers when you get up and when you go to bed:

#### **A prayer in the morning:**

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'.

Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.

Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep me in your care. **Amen.**

#### **A prayer in the evening:**

God our Father, by whose mercy the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light: we place in your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only what you bless will prosper.

To your love and protection we commit each other and all those we love, knowing that you alone are our sure defender, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Revd David**