**Sunday 24th May April 2020** WORSHIP AT HOME: **Easter 7 John 17.1-11**

Welcome to our act of Worship for the Sunday after Ascension and Aldersgate Sunday

Call to worship

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love. *2 John 1v3*

**HYMN**: Father in whom we live, in whom we are, and move...

HP4, MP-, RS405, STF5

(Some of the hymn books widely used in the Wiltshire United Area)

*Prayers of Praise*

God of majesty and might,
your glory shines throughout the universe:
from the highest heaven to the deepest ocean;
in all the creatures you have made;
in the seasons that shape our living.
Your glory shines through who you are
and through your glorious works.
The power of your glory
touches your creation and exalts it.
To you we offer our worship;
to you we offer our praise;

To you we come in adoration.

Glory, honour, praise be to you.

Alleluia, Alleluia. **Amen.**

*Prayer of Confession*

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.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**HYMN** Christ is alive! Let Christians sing…

HP190, MP-, RS260 , STF297

**GOSPEL John 17v1-11 with special emphasis:**

**10All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. 11And 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.**

Reflection

*‘We are all in this together’*, one of the current straplines used during the pandemic. Amidst all that is negative, alienating and traumatic I see so many signs of people coming together and seeking to support. How many have placed a box outside their home with books, games, toys or plants in with the sign “Free, help yourself.” Leaflets have come through the letter-box offering practical help like shopping for those shielding, or suffering from Covid-19. This week in hospital chaplaincy we were greeted by piles of cakes from one of the local WI’s who had baked enough for every ward and department! Nationally we have been inspired by the centenarian treasure: Captain Sir Tom Moore. In this time of crisis, we witness the best from so many. As one of my near neighbours prophetically declared at the beginning of lockdown, “Something good has to come out of this!”

‘We are all in this together’ that finds resonance in today’s Gospel. It is set within the late hours of Maundy Thursday. It is part of what is known as the farewell discourse, Christ knows the cross with all its horror is beckoning through the darkness. In the verses I’ve quoted we hear how Jesus, knowing that death is imminent is praying like a parent for protection of the disciples. This image of divine-parenthood I find spine-tingling, it mirrors an earlier prayer where the disciples say, “Teach us how to pray” and he begins, “Our Father..” **1** Likewise, some parables like the Lost Son. **2**

Let us be quite clear, in case there is any doubt, there is an intimate relationship between humankind and the divine. God is not remote, uncaring, unfeeling, rather right in the midst of our lives, in the here and now, in the rough and the tumble!! And as Good Friday reminds God knows what human suffering is like.

This Sunday is an important one for Methodist’s when we remember the occasion when John Wesley felt his heart “strangely warmed” and his faith became truly alive. The imagery from this passage of the divine-human relationship should make all our hearts feel warmed because of the love and faithfulness of God towards us.

‘We are all in this together’ and we boldly assert, God is with us, Alleluia Amen!

**HYMN** There’s a spirit in the air

HP326, MP, RS329, STF398

Our Prayers *Too often our prayers are one-way, forgetting the role that Jesus has in praying for us, God's children. The following are a selection of Jesus' words from John 17 coupled with a prayer of response, allow plenty of space for quietness between the prayers.*

*Jesus' prayer*: Jesus looked towards heaven and prayed: ‘Father, the time has come.
Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.’

*Our prayer* **Father, may you be glorified in our worship, in our fellowship in faithful lives and obedient hearts.**

*Jesus' prayer*: ‘I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world, They were yours;
you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.’

*Our prayer:* **Father, we pray for your children of every race, language and nation: the hungry, the war-weary, the neglected, the rootless.
Help us to see them as you look upon them.**

*Jesus' prayer*: ‘My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.’

*Our prayers*: **Father we pray for ourselves and for one another and we lift to you those who feel assailed by trials or tribulations. We remember all those unwell in body mind or spirit, especially remembering all those affected by Covid19.**

*Jesus' prayer*: ‘As you sent me into the world,
I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.’

*Our prayer*: **Renew your church and make us holy;
a temple for your Holy Spirit,
that by our worship, our fellowship
and through faithful lives and obedient hearts
all your children may be drawn to you.**

*Jesus' prayer*: ‘My prayer is not for them alone.
I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,
that all of them may be one, Father,
just as you are in me and I am in you.
May they be brought to complete unity
that the world may know that you sent me
and love them even as you have loved me.’
*Our prayer - we boldly pray* **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

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.**

**HYMN** O thou who camest from above (Tune Hereford)

HP745, MP525, RS433, STF564

Blessing

Lord, take our minds and think through them;

Take our lips and speak through them;

Take our hearts and set them on fire with love for Christ and his Kingdom.

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us, this day and forever. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

An alternative “Action Blessing” for little people

God bless you, (*Point to others*)

and God bless me. (*Point to self*)

**Amen.** (*Wave arms*)

*Adult:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
*Children:* **In the name of Christ, Amen.**

Rev David Coppard Superintendent @ Wiltshire United Area

Bank Chaplain @ Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton

***Our churches may not be open, but the Church is alive.***

*This is service is offered to any and all, with love and prayers.*

***Something to think about:***

*Jesus, healer, comforter, teacher, where are you?****I will be with you always.****Jesus, suffering servant, crucified one, where are you?****I will be with you always.****Jesus, risen Lord, peace giver, where are you?****I will be with you always.****Jesus, taken into glory, ascended beyond the earth, where are you?****I will be with you always.***

**GOSPEL John 17v1-11 Jesus Prays for His Disciples**

**After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, 2since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. 4I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. 5So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.**

**6 ‘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. 7Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; 8for 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. 9I 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. 10All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. 11And 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.**

***Mini Bible story with actions for small people based on today’s Gospel***

Looking up to heaven

Jesus looked up to heaven

*Action - Look up.*

and spoke to God his Father:

Put your hands together in prayer.

‘Give glory

*Action - Twinkle your fingers.*

to me, your Son,

*Action - Point to yourself.*

so that I can give glory

*Action - Twinkle fingers.*

to you.’

*Action - Move fingers upwards.*

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**Father, in whom we live,**

in whom we are and move,
Glory, power, and praise receive

Of thy creating love.

Let all the angel throng

Give thanks to God on high,
While earth repeats the joyful song

And echoes to the sky.

Incarnate Deity,

Let all the ransomed race
Render in thanks their lives to thee,

For thy redeeming grace.
The grace to sinners showed

Ye heavenly choirs proclaim,
And cry, "Salvation to our God,

salvation to the Lamb!"

Spirit of Holiness,

Let all thy saints adore
Thy sacred energy, and bless

Thy heart-renewing power.
Not angel tongues can tell

Thy love's ecstatic height,
The glorious joy unspeakable,

the beatific sight.

Eternal, Triune Lord!

Let all the hosts above,
Let all on earth below, record

And dwell upon thy love.
When heaven and earth are fled

Before thy glorious face,
Sing all the saints thy love hath made

Thine everlasting praise.

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.**
His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
His love in death shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now,
and conquer every place and time.

Not throned above, remotely high,
untouched, unmoved by human pains
but daily, in the midst of life,
our Saviour, with the Father reigns.

In every insult, rift and war,
where color, scorn or wealth divide,
he suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, though ever crucified.

Christ is alive! His Spirit burns
through this and every future age,
till all creation lives and learns
his joy, his justice, love and praise.

**There's a spirit in the air,**telling Christians everywhere:
'Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world!'

Lose your shyness, find your tongue,
tell the world what God has done:
God in Christ has come to stay.
We can see his power today.

When believers break the bread,
when a hungry child is fed,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.

4. Still the Spirit gives us light,
seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay.
We can see his power today.

5. When a stranger's not alone,
where the homeless find a home,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.

6. May the Spirit fill our praise,
guide our thoughts and change our ways
God in Christ has come to stay.
We can see his power today.

7. There's a Spirit in the air,
calling people everywhere:
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.

(Descant)
Praise the love! Praise the love!
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

**O thou who camest from above**the fire celestial to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work and speak and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire
and still stir up the gift in me.

Still let me prove thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat,
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.