



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter – ‘Peace Be With You’ Acts 2:14, 22-32 / John 20:19 - end

This week I want to commend you to our Bible readings – maybe you could try Lectio Divina. Reading the passage, or a portion of it that stands out for you, slowly several times, with a space in between each reading.

We hear Jesus saying “Peace be with you” and, of course, now is a time when we need to hear those words loud and clear. Jesus was standing among his friends, his disciples, and imparted to them the Holy Spirit. Our prayer this week could be: “Lord, help me to receive each day, more powerfully than before, your Holy Spirit. Amen. ”

I also want to comment on the reading from the book of Acts – we always have these readings in Easter season, and with good reason. We see how the early, *first*, Christian church began. And again...’Wow!’ these words are pertinent for us now. Peter addresses the crowd and recalls the words from the Prophet Joel bringing the words of God:

‘I will cause wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below. The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before the great and glorious day of the Lord arrives.

**But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’**

*(He is risen indeed – Hallelujah!)*

Our Lord saves, our Lord gives peace beyond human understanding. Many people are, not surprisingly, seeking this peace right now! Live streamed services are being viewed by far more people than would have been in the churches. This in itself says something of how the church needs to, will be, should be going forward into the future.

I was reminded this week whilst viewing one of the many sermons I have accessed (*a great opportunity for me*) that, through the ages Christians on many occasions, for many reasons, have not been able to gather together. I remember when the congregations of one of our link Diocese, Harare in Zimbabwe, were locked out of their churches by ‘self-professed’ bishops, approximately 10 years ago. During this time of ‘exile’ the church actually grew.

There is no denying that this is a difficult and uncertain time, but we, as God’s people, have a golden opportunity to creatively recreate the church that **we** are! The book of Acts says:

God released Jesus from the horrors of death and raised him back to life –  
because death could not keep him in its grip.

Now hear the words of King David: “I see that the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken for he is right beside me. No wonder my heart is glad and my tongue shouts his praise!

My body rests in hope. For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your Holy One to rot in the grave. You have shown me the way of life, and you will fill me with the joy of your presence.

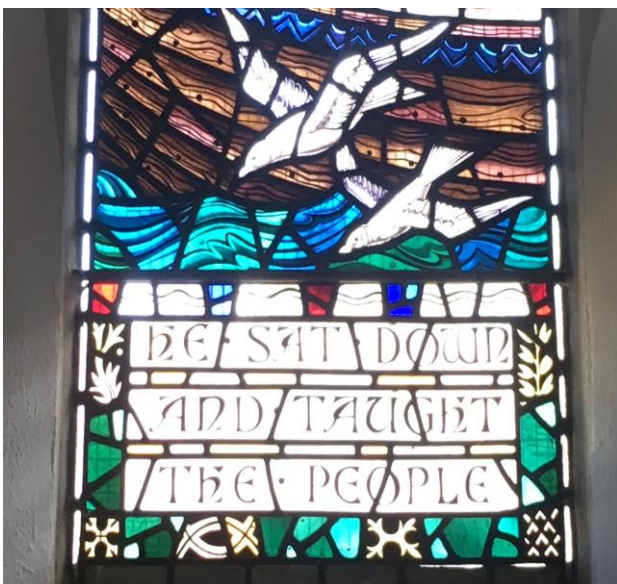
This week I suggest that you look at the many resources that are available online. There are all sorts of services, sermons, messages and music. If you go onto [www.achurchnearyou.org.uk](http://www.achurchnearyou.org.uk) you can join in with Daily Prayer, find out what's happening in all the churches around you. And, if you follow the top two lines of text you will see.....

You can find a live stream service or event to watch from home [here](#).

*(Hover over this blue word, press 'control' Ctrl and right click your mouse – and you can get onto this page)*

You can actually 'go to church' wherever you want to! You can see what happens elsewhere and let God open your heart to the vastness of the Kingdom!

And....let the Lord Jesus teach you! Here is part of one of our beautiful stained glass windows around the Altar Table. In it Jesus is teaching from a boat – I particularly like the colours of the sea. But look at the words: **'He sat down and taught the people.'** Before we can absorb to the teachings of Jesus we need to be ready to listen – we need to be still....to sit down!



*He sat down and taught the people*



*He (Jesus) sat down....*

**Peace be with you.**

The Collect

God of glory, by the rising 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, creation is restored,  
and the way to life stands open  
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.



Be still and know that I am God.  
Be still and know that I am God.  
Be still and know that I am God.

I am the Lord that healeth thee.  
I am the Lord that healeth thee.  
I am the Lord that healeth thee.

In thee, O Lord, I put my trust.  
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust  
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust.

*Unknown, based on Psalm 46*

Source: [Musixmatch](#)

Songwriters: Traditional

Please check out the Church of England website and the Rochester and Canterbury Diocese websites for more resources...

[www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)

[www.rochester.anglican.org](http://www.rochester.anglican.org)

[www.canterburydiocese.org](http://www.canterburydiocese.org)

### **Radio**

- Prayer for the Day daily at 5.43am on BBC Radio 4
- Sunday Worship Sundays at 8.10am on BBC Radio 4
- Daily Service Monday to Friday at 9.45am on BBC Radio 4 Longwave It is also available on a Radio 4 DAB side channel which is automatically made available about a minute before the program begins.
- Lent Talks Wednesdays at 8.45pm on BBC Radio 4
- Choral evensong- Wednesdays at 3.30pm and the same service is repeated Sundays at 3pm on BBC Radio 3
- Listen live or catch up using [BBC Sounds](#)

### **Television**

- BBC – 11.45am – Church Service
- Songs of Praise Sundays at 1.15pm on BBC1. Listen live or catch up [BBC iPlayer](#)

### **Prayer**

- [Church of England daily prayer](#)
- [Audio daily prayer](#)
- [24-7prayer](#)