



## **10<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at Home** **Jesus is the Way**



I hope you have all had a relatively peaceful week – we continue to pray for those amongst us who are sick or grieving. We remembered those who gave their lives for our freedoms – we had a great VE Day celebration in The Dale. And I guess we'll all be wondering what Boris Johnson will have to say to us this afternoon. Whatever message the Government gives us we all know that we will need continue to keep ourselves and others safe for a while yet – no hugs for a while!

Praying God's power for you, that you may continue to trust in God's mercy – Carol x

*Take a moment's silence to prepare for worship – maybe to light a candle.....*

### Greeting

The Lord be with all people on earth  
as we meet remotely in the name of Jesus,  
and give God glory.

### Prayer of Preparation

Loving God, we set aside this time to worship you.  
Help us to pray to you in faith,  
to sing your praise with gratitude,  
and to read and absorb your word with eagerness;  
and to give our lives to your will on earth.  
Amen.

### Confession

God loved the world so much that he sent Jesus  
to repair our relationship with God,  
to offer us forgiveness for the things we have done,  
either knowingly or unknowingly  
that have gone against the Way of Love.



*In a moments silence we let God remind us of anything we need to confess.*

Lord, for times we have misused your gifts of creation.....*pause*  
For the times we have been unkind in what we have said or done.....*pause*  
For times we have seen others suffering and not tried to help.....*pause*  
For the times we have not trusted you to be there for us.....*pause*  
Jesus, through your love, forgive us,  
in your mercy free us and by your power heal us.

### Absolution

God, who is Love forgives us and sets us free.  
We are renewed and made whole by the sacrifice of Jesus.  
Amen.

## Collect for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world  
and the wonder of your risen life:  
Give us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

## Bible Readings:

Genesis 8:1-19 / Acts 7:55-60 / John 14:1-14

## Reflection

Well...the first thing that comes to me this week from our readings is the Gospel of John chapter 14, and it's significance for funerals – maybe because I have a few booked to do. Sorry to begin on what might seem like a negative note, but, after all there are an awful lot of funerals happening around the world at the moment. This passage from John's Gospel is widely used at funerals because it says several things to the grieving, and for the deceased.

Firstly, of course, it says: 'Don't let your hearts be troubled.' We read the New Living Translation, but, here are a couple of alternative translations:

"Don't worry or surrender to your fear." (The Passion Translation)

"Don't let this throw you." (The Message)

"Do not be worried and upset." (Good News Bible)

Because of all that Jesus has done, even rising from the dead, we need not be troubled, afraid, worried, thrown or upset. And yet, I will admit that I have been thrown a bit by what is happening around the world at the moment. However, because of Jesus and my belief in him, I can quickly come back to a place of peace because, although like everyone else, I simply don't know how things will progress in the coming months, I know Jesus is still with us and *for* us.

Jesus had just said his final farewell to his disciples (in chapter 13) – told them to love each other and that their love for one another would prove to the world that they were his followers. That message never changes! John records Jesus having been 'troubled' three times himself (11:33, 12:27, 13:21), but his confidence in God's power made it possible for him to face all that he had to endure.

Having commanded them to love, Jesus now tells them to trust. "Trust in God, trust also in me." Trust in God, who's power raised Jesus from the dead, trust in God who says simply 'love each other.' Then...you will be with me when the time is right. That's the kind of reassurance we need at a funeral. We can't be with Jesus, physically right now, but one day we will. And we can know this to be true because Jesus is The Truth. (verse 6)

And then the flood recedes....As we turn to the reading from Genesis we see further that we can trust in God. Our God is gracious and this flood too will pass, the flood waters of this pandemic will pass – and leave humanity with the opportunity for a fresh start. A chance to make different, better choices for the common good, for the good of the natural world, for wildlife and farm animals and key workers: choices motivated by love alone.

### The Extending of Peace

Let us put aside all that troubles us  
and receive, into our hearts, the peace of God.  
The peace of the Lord be always with us.

*Pause for a moment to extend peace to our fellowship at Keston Church.....*

Lord Jesus, let us receive the peace that your give.  
Peace that the world and all distractions and complexities cannot give.  
The peace of Christ be always with us and all peoples.

*Pause for a moment to extend peace to all people....*

### Pray as the Spirit leads you

*For the world, the church, our community – for peace, comfort, compassion,  
healing, joy and hope – inspired by love.*

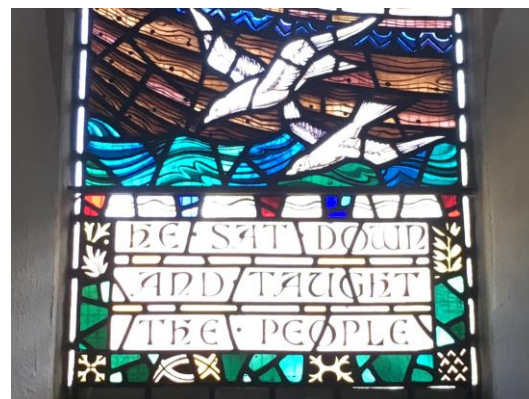
*Thanks for: the safe arrival of baby Eadie to Chris and Danielle.*

*Healing and Health for: Heather, Pam (Heather's Mum), Lynne, Bishop James  
(suspected Covid-19).*

*Those who are Grieving: Jean, Pam and Heather, Soraya and Barbara.*

### The Lord's Prayer

**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 forever.  
Amen.**



### Blessing

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is the source of all goodness and growth,  
pour abundant blessing on all things created,  
and on you the children of the living God.

The blessing God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
be with you and remain with you, and those you love, now and always.  
Amen.

### Dismissal

Go into this week in peace,  
to love and serve the Lord.  
In the name of Christ.  
Amen.



A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers

## **In Christ Alone**

In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This cornerstone, this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm

What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when striving cease  
My comforter, my all in all  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones he came to save

'Til on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground his body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave he rose again

And as he stands in victory  
Sins curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am his and he is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From lives first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny

No power of hell no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from his hand  
'Til he returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

