**Sunday 17th May April 2020** WORSHIP AT HOME: **Easter 6 John 14v15-21**

Welcome to our act of Worship for the Sunday after Ascension

Call to worship

‘Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all*.’ I Chronicles 29v11*

HYMN: Let all the world in every corner sing...

HP10, MP404, RS114, STF57

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

*Prayers of Praise*

Mighty God, transcending your world yet dwelling within it, we worship you.

Caring Father, showing us in Jesus your face of love, we worship you.

We have no words with to praise your great and glorious Name.

Lift us, hearts, minds and wills, into the joy of your divine presence, that seeing you as you are, we may worship you as we ought; through Jesus Christ our Ascended Lord. **Amen.**

*Prayer of Confession*

Holy God, we make our confession:

You have given us tasks to do - but we not done them.

You have taught us to love one another - but our love has been cold.

You have bidden us hope - but we have despaired.

You have shown us the humility of Christ – but we have been proud.

You have called us to trust – but we have not listened.

By Christ’s death, which was for us - forgive us our sins.

By his rising again and pleading for us in heaven - forgive our sins.

Make us anew, in the image of the living Christ, to your praise and glory.

We make our prayer in the name of the One who grants forgiveness, Jesus Christ **Amen**

HYMN All for Jesus

HP251-, MP-, RS- , STF341

**GOSPEL John 14v15-21** with special focus on:

**18 ‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me…”**

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

Reflection

One patient I visit in the Leukemia ward is truly inspirational. For the past 7 weeks her single ensuite room has been her world: never allowed to leave, all medical procedures take place in that room. She is not even allowed to have the window open. With Covid restrictions there are no visitors, even a chaplain only visits by appointment with the ward. If you are frustrated with lockdown, think of that lady then count your blessings!!

In our many conversations repeatedly she tells me, “I am not alone.” That is a sentiment at the heart of today’s our Gospel reading, its location is the same as in the previous few weeks, the Upper Room on Maundy Thursday.

“I will not leave you orphaned,” said Jesus, yet the disciples do just that only hours later, unable to keep awake and fulfil the request of their friend, then they run at the arrest, with Peter – the one called “the rock” denying. And where are they at the crucifixion? Yet Christ’s promise is made within the Covenant of God’s love that is eternal, indestructible, and everlasting. Many of us attend annual Covenant services and hear words from Jeremiah 31 “I will be their God and they will be my people” God’s promises are eternal!

“I will not leave you orphaned,” At some point we all want or even need to hear these words. They speak directly to some of our greatest fears and challenges; abandonment, isolation, loneliness, vulnerability. They remind us that we are not destined to walk this earth without an identity or direction. We do not walk alone.

One of the church members in Bournemouth was stationed in North Africa for 5 years during the war but every letter he wrote to his wife would include the sentence, “Even though we are apart I will never leave you.”

“I will not leave you orphaned.” Day after day, regardless of what is happening in our lives, no-matter where we are that is Jesus’ promise. We have not been abandoned. The challenge to us especially at this current time is not to feel either abandoned or be abandoning to others. Let us mirror Christ, loving with all that we are and all that we have, even as the Father and Jesus love us with all that they are and all that they have.

Prayer of Response for All Ages

Father God, you love us.  
**We love and adore you.**  
Jesus, you send us your Spirit.  
**Help us to keep your commandments.**  
Spirit, you guide and inspire us.  
**Be with us, and live in us.**  
Holy Three, help us to live in love.  
**We love and adore you.**  
**Amen.**

HYMN Come down, O love divine

HP281, MP89, RS294, STF372

Little people may prefer:

He’s got the whole world in his hands…

Our Prayers

Holy God we come to you in the greatness of your love. We thank you that the way into your presence is always open through Jesus Christ and that you invite us to draw near in full assurance of faith. Help us to pray simply and sincerely, unselfishly and gratefully, giving thanks always for everything in the name of Christ our Lord

Lord in your mercy, ***hear our prayer***

With last Thursday being Ascension we pray for all whose who may feel like God is absent, that they would experience peace and a new connection to God in whatever way that may come.

Lord in your mercy, ***hear our prayer***

God of compassion in this time of uncertainty, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation, in their pain be their peace, in their anxiety be their hope, in their darkness, be their light.

Lord in your mercy, ***hear our prayer***

We pray for those who have been furloughed or have lost their jobs and livelihoods. May they know you have not abandoned them.

Lord in your mercy, ***hear our prayer***

We pray for the scientific community, leading the charge to understand Covid 19 and develop a cure: God give them knowledge, wisdom and discernment.

Lord in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

We pray for those who are dying, their loved ones, and all those who grieve, especially those who have lost loved ones to this dreadful virus. Jesus who wept at the death of your friend Lazurus hold them in your love.

Lord in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

**In the name of Christ,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 Alleluia, sing to Jesus*, with emphasis on verse 2*, “Alleluia, not as orphans are we left in sorrow now…

HP592, MP207, RS-, STF568

Blessing

May the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, rest upon you, may he give light to guide you, courage to support you, and love to unite you, now and evermore. **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.*

**During the coming days:**

* **Light a candle.**
* **Sit quietly and give thanks for all the ways God has been made known to you.**
* **Entrust to God any worries you have about things you don’t know, or areas where you feel absence and doubt.**
* **Don’t be afraid to be honest.**

**GOSPEL John 14v15-21**

**The Promise of the Holy Spirit**

**15 ‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. 17This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.**

**18 ‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’**

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**Let all the world in every corner sing**,

my God and King!  
The heavens are not too high,

his praise may thither fly,  
the earth is not too low,

his praises there may grow.  
Let all the world in every corner sing,

my God and King!  
  
Let all the world in every corner sing,

my God and King!  
The church with psalms must shout,

no door can keep them out;  
but, above all,

the heart must bear the longest part.  
Let all the world in every corner sing,

my God and King!

**All for Jesus--all for Jesus**,  
this our song shall ever be;  
for we have no hope, nor Saviour,  
if we have not hope in thee.  
  
All for Jesus--thou wilt give us  
strength to serve thee, hour by hour,  
none can move us from thy presence,  
while we trust thy love and power.  
  
All for Jesus--thou hast loved us;  
all for Jesus--thou hast died;  
all for Jesus--thou art with us;  
all for Jesus crucified.  
  
All for Jesus--all for Jesus--  
this the Church's song must be;  
till, at last, we all are gathered  
one in love and one in thee.

**Come down, O love divine**,

seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing.  
  
O let it freely burn, til earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
And let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.  
  
Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,  
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;  
True lowliness of heart,

which takes the humbler part,  
and o’er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.  
  
And so the yearning strong,

with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
For none can guess its grace,

till they become the place  
where-in the Holy Spirit finds a dwelling.

**He's got the whole world in His hands,**He's got the whole world in His hands,  
He's got the whole world in His hands,  
He's got the whole world in His hands.  
  
He's got the wind and the rain in His hands,  
He's got the wind and the rain in His hands,  
He's got the wind and the rain in His hands,  
He's got the whole world in His hands.  
  
He's got the little tiny baby in His hands,

He's got the little tiny baby in His hands,

He's got the little tiny baby in His hands,  
He's got the whole world in His hands.  
  
He's got the whole world in His hands,  
He's got the whole world in His hands,  
He's got the whole world in His hands,  
He's got the whole world in His hands.

**Alleluia! sing to Jesus!**His the sceptre, his the throne.  
Alleluia! His the triumph,  
his the victory alone.  
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood.  
Jesus out of every nation  
has redeemed us by his blood.  
  
Alleluia! not as orphans  
are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! He is near us,  
faith believes, nor questions how;  
Though the cloud from sight received him  
when the forty days were o'er  
shall our hearts forget his promise,  
'I am with you evermore'?  
  
Alleluia! bread of heaven,  
here on earth our food and stay!  
Alleluia! here the sinful  
flee to thee from day to day.  
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,  
earth's Redeemer, plead for me.  
Where the songs of all the sinless  
sweep across the crystal sea.  
  
Alleluia! King eternal,  
thee the Lord of lords we own;  
Alleluia! born of Mary,  
earth thy footstool,  
heaven thy throne.  
Thou within the veil hast entered,  
robed in flesh, our great High Priest.  
Thou on earth both Priest and Victim  
in the Eucharistic Feast.