



Worship for Sunday 24th May

Welcome

Good morning and welcome to our service on this the 7th Sunday of Easter also known as the Sunday after Ascension Day. It is incredibly special to be able to gather with you for worship this morning. I know we are still not able to be physically together for worship, but we are together in spirit and prayer as we gather as a church family. Our gospel reading today once again reminds us of the unfailing presence of God as we reflect on the glory of God and how we are to live our lives in ways that brings glory to God. Let us take a moment to be still in the presence of God as we get ready to worship God this morning.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you **and also with you.** Alleluia! Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

A gathering prayer

Mighty God, we gather in humility to worship you. Caring God, we bring to you our concerns. Glorious God, we exalt your holy name. Unite us – make us one in you, that your love may strengthen and empower us. Amen

Hymn: Christ Triumphant, ever reigning

A prayer of approach

Lord of all glory, we come before you seeking your wisdom, that we may glorify you through our thinking; seeking your love, that we may glorify you through our emotions; seeking your strength, that we may glorify you at all times; seeking your perseverance, that we may glorify you in all places, show us how to live, that our lives shine with your glory, and those who encounter us may know you and that you are at work in your world. Amen

Prayers of Penitence (taken from our Eastertide service sheet)

There is a video that come with this part of the service.

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief. *Silence is kept*

Like Mary at the empty tomb, we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence, Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Like the disciples behind locked doors, we are afraid to be seen as your followers. Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Like Thomas in the upper room, we are slow to believe. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

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

Collection for the 7th Sunday of Easter

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

Read Act 1: 6-14

Hymn: The head that once was crown with thorns

Read: John 17: 1-11

Talk

There is a video that come with this part of the service.

Declaring Our Faith

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Hymn: Crown him with many crowns

The Prayers

There is a video that come with this part of the service.

In joy and hope let us pray to our creator God.

We bring before you, O God, our concerns for our world: where there is violence, we pray for peace; where there is sickness we pray for health; where there is despair, we pray for hope. We pray for those effected by Cyclone Amphan that hit Bangladesh and eastern India this week and for all those affected by the coronavirus, especially those in countries with poor health care and sanitation, may the world work together to protect the vulnerable. In a moment of silence, we bring before you those stories in the news that have touched our hearts this week. *Silence.* Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our local community, for all who live and work here. We pray for the local schools and businesses, for the doctor's surgeries and hospitals, for the local care homes and social services, give them the resources they need to keep people safe as they seek to service the community. We pray for household and individuals who have really struggled this week, show us ways we can reach out to support those around us. We give thanks for the work of the Food Bank and other charities who are supporting people through this difficult time, grant them the resources they need to continue their good work. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Guide our activity in the church: may we find ways to grow; may we listen to your will; may we always honour you; may we serve our communities with love, understanding and compassion. Lord, shine through our lives so that we may give glory to you in all that we do and in all that we are. Fill us to overflowing with ongoing thankfulness both in the sunlight and in the storm. Give us strength and courage to be your witness and to spread your light and love in the communities of what we are a part. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We hold in your love those who struggle this day: those who are sick; those who are sorrowful: those who are lonely, those who are anxious, those who need guidance and direction; those who are struggling with their mental health and wellbeing. In a moment of silence, we name before you those we know who are suffering in body, mind or spirit this day. *Silence.* Support them in their troubles, bring them healing and reassurance, and touch them with the gentleness of your peace. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the lives of those who have recently died, for all that they meant to their families and friends and in a moment of silence we name before you any known to us. *Silence.* We pray for all those who are grieving at this time, may they find in your comfort strength and hope. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

In a moment of silence, we offer our own prayers to God. *Silence* God of glory, we thank you that through your ascension into heaven the way was open for us to receive the Holy Spirit. Prepare our hearts each day to welcome you. Merciful Father **accept these prayers for the sake of your son our saviour Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

The Lord's prayer

The peace

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace. If we live in the Spirit, let us walk in the Spirit. The peace of the risen Christ be always with you. **And also, with you.** Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

I know that we are not together physically today and not able to share the peace in our normal way. However, this does not mean that we are not able to share the peace. Bring to mind members of our church family and as you do wish them God's peace. "..... (the name of a member of our church family) God's peace be with you.

Hymn: Jesus is Lord

We go out

Go into the world to show God's glory and may you always know God's blessing and God's peace. Amen

May the God of hope fill you with all with joy and peace in believing, through the power of the Holy Spirit
And the blessing of God almighty the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always.
Amen.

With the risen life of Christ within you, go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

At the end of our worship today I wanted to leave you with a blessing called the Gaelic Blessing, here are the words.

Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.
Deep peace of Christ, of Christ the light of the world to you.
Deep peace of Christ to you.

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