

Low Sunday Morning Worship at Home

Sunday 19th April 2020

WELCOME

Good morning and welcome to worship at home on the second Sunday of Easter. Home for us, is in Wakefield, where I serve at the Cathedral. My name is Leah Vasey-Saunders and today you will see my whole family participate in leading this service of the word. From youngest to oldest they are Miriam, Elias, Jude and Reuben our children and then my husband Mark, who is also ordained and on staff at St Hild college, Yorkshire. We've reflected together on the Gospel reading set for the second Sunday of Easter or as we might call it, Low Sunday. In our reading the disciples gathered together in fear behind locked doors, and each in their own way struggled to comprehend the news of the resurrection. They had just been through a traumatic experience, and they had seen their friend and teacher arrested, tortured and crucified, and even though he had taught them about the resurrection, they still struggled and of course we might refer to Thomas as a late adopter. In the midst of that fearful gathering, behind locked doors the reality of the resurrection broke into their lives as they encountered Jesus. As we gather in our homes, whether in Wakefield or elsewhere, and however we are feeling today on day twenty-seven of lockdown, we pray that just like those first disciples we would meet with Jesus as we worship together this morning.

So we begin by singing together our first hymn, 'Love's redeeming work is done'.

HYMN

Love's redeeming work is done

Sung by St Paul's Cathedral 'Choir of the Nation'

Love's redeeming work is done,
fought the fight, the battle won.
Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er!
Lo, he sets in blood no more!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal!
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened paradise.

Lives again our glorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led,
following our exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise,
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to thee by both be given:
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection thou!

Words: C Wesley (1707-88)

*Music: SAVANNAH (HERRNHUT)
MS. Choralbuch c 1740 J Wesley's
Foundery Collection*

INTRODUCTION

Alleluia! Christ is Risen,
He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!

The Book of Scripture Readings is opened.

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

cf John 1.1

A candle is lit.

The true light, which enlightens everyone,
was coming into the world.

cf John 1.9

The Cross, the sign of Christ is placed on the table.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him;
yet the world did not know him.

cf John 1.10

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Jesus Christ, risen master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

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.

ABSOLUTION

May the God of love and power
forgive *you* and free *you* from *your* sins,
heal and strengthen *you* by his Spirit,
and raise *you* to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

ANTHEM

Open thou mine eyes – John Rutter
Sung by St Martin's Voices

Open thou mine eyes and I shall see,
Incline my heart and I shall desire,
Order my steps and I shall walk
In the ways of thy commandments.

Open thou mine eyes and I shall see,
Incline my heart and I shall desire,
Order my steps and I shall walk
In the ways of thy commandments.

O Lord God, be thou to me a God
And beside thee let there be none else,
No other, nought else with thee.
Vouchsafe to me to worship thee
and serve thee
According to thy commandments
In truth of spirit,
In reverence of body,
In blessing of lips,
In private and public.

Open thou mine eyes and I shall see,
Incline my heart and I shall desire,
Order my steps and I shall walk
In the ways of thy commandments.

GOSPEL READING

John 20.19-end

A reading from the Gospel of John.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are

forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

SERMON

Revd Canon Leah Vasey-Saunders, Precentor of Wakefield Cathedral.

RESPONSORY

Our Lord Jesus Christ, risen from death,
we praise you for changed lives and new hopes at Easter.

You come to Mary in the garden,
and turn her tears into joy.
We praise your holy name.

You come to the disciples in the upper room,
and turn their fear into courage.
We praise your holy name.

You come to the disciples by the lakeside,
and turn their failure into faith.
We praise your holy name.

You come to the disciples on the Emmaus road,
and turn their despair into hope.
We praise your holy name.

You come to your people now,
and turn our weakness into triumph.
We praise your holy name.

HYMN

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!

Sung by St Martin's Voices

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!

Now is the triumph of our King!

To the whole world glad news we bring:

Alleluia!

The Lord of life is risen today;

bring flowers of song to strew his way;

let everyone rejoice and say:

Alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory

that love, that life which cannot die,

and sing with hearts uplifted high:

Alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord,

and sing today with one accord

the life laid down, the life restored:

Alleluia!

*Words: Cyril A Alington (1872-1955)
Tune: Gelobt sei Gott 8 8 8. with Alleluias*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith

in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ died for our sins

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he was buried;

he was raised to life on the third day

in accordance with the Scriptures;

afterwards he appeared to his followers,

and to all the apostles:

this we have received,

and this we believe.

Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

A Holy Habit: Family Examen

The Ignatian Examen is a way of praying that has been practised for centuries. Ignatius, one of the early church leaders suggested the Examen as a way of reflecting on your day and growing closer to God. Many people do this individually and in silence, but we're going to do it here this morning as a family out loud. We've structured this more than we would do when we're sat around the supper table at the end of the day - not everyone has something to say there and then when we do this, but these holy conversations and prayers often come back as we say goodnight at the end of the evening. We invite you to consider your own answers to the questions that I will ask Miriam, Elias, Jude, Reuben and Mark, and to respond to the prayer at the end of each section. When I say the words 'Risen Lord' please respond 'Hear our prayer'.

Risen Lord

All: Hear our prayer

What has been good about the last week? What has brought you joy in the last week?

Group reflection

Let us pray. God of the resurrection, we thank you that you bring hope, joy and life from even the darkest of situations. Thank you for being with us in our Joy. We thank you for the hope and joy we have found in our home, in the church and in the world this week.

Risen Lord

All: Hear our prayer

What has been difficult in the last week? What's made you sad?

Group reflection

Let us pray. God of the resurrection, we thank you that you journeyed through the depths of despair and death. Thank you for being with us in our sorrow. We pray to you for all of those times and places where we and others have felt lost, alone, sad, poorly, frustrated and tired.

Risen Lord

All: Hear our prayer

Where did you feel close to God in this last week?

Group reflection

Let us pray. God of the resurrection, we thank you for Thomas and the other disciples, and for all who have been close to Jesus throughout the years in your church. Give us all open hearts and minds to see you more clearly and help us to stay close to you always.

Risen Lord

All: Hear our prayer

Where did you feel farthest away from God this week?

Group reflection

Let us pray. God of the resurrection, we thank that you always find a way to be with us, breaking through closed doors just as you did on Easter Sunday. Help us to know that just as you were present with your different disciples in their different needs, you will be present with us, and with all of your children.

Risen Lord
All: Hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, help us to know your presence in our joys and sorrows and when we find it hard to know you are with us, remind us of your promise to bless those who believe but have not seen. This we ask in your precious name.

Amen.

Let us pray.

COLLECT

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.

Amen.

We join now in praying together with our family in church, with our family across the world, in whichever form, or in whichever language we are most comfortable, the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray.

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

There's a wideness in God's mercy
Sung by Wakefield Cathedral Choir

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heav'n:
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgement given.

For the love of God is broader
than the measure of man's mind;
and the heart of the eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify his strictness
with a zeal he will not own.

There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the head.
There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss

If our love were but more simple,
we should take him at his word;
and our lives would be all gladness,
in the joy of Christ our Lord.

Words FW Faber (1814-63)
Tune CORVEDALE M Bevan (1921-)

Thank you for joining us for worship this morning here in Wakefield. We hope that you will make the little paper models of Jesus and have fun surprising each other with them around the home this week. Worshipping together at home has been an unexpected gift for us as a family - there are lots of different resources available for people of all ages to use like the Church of England's Easter Pilgrim resource. For more information about this and other resources that you could use at home please visit:

www.churchofengland.org.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.
SONG

The Prayer

Arranged and sung by Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir

I pray you'll be our eyes
And watch us where we go,
And help us to be wise
In times when we don't know.

Let this be our prayer
When we lose our way.

Lead us to a place,
Guide us with your grace
To a place where we'll be safe.

I pray we'll find your light,
I pray we'll find your light,
And hold it in our hearts,
And hold it in our hearts.
When stars go out each night,
Stars go out each night,
Remind us where you are,
Remind us where you are.

Let this be our prayer,
Let this be our prayer,
When shadows fill our day,
When shadows fill our day.

Oh, oh, Lord, lead us to a place up there,
Guide us with your grace,
Guide us with your grace,
Give us faith so we'll be safe.

A world where pain and sorrow will be ended,
And every heart, that's broken, will be mended.
And we'll remember we are all God's children
Reaching out to touch you,
Reaching to the sky.

We ask that life be kind,
We ask that life be kind,
And watch us from above,
And watch us from above.
We hope each soul will find,
We hope each soul will find,
Another soul to love,
Another soul to love.

Let this be our prayer,
Let this be our prayer.
Just like every child,

Just like every child
Needs to find a place,
Guide us with your grace,
Give us faith so we'll be safe.

Needs to find a place.
Guide us with your grace,
Give us faith so we'll be safe.

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