

Worship at Home on the Fourth Sunday of Easter

HYMN

All people that on earth do dwell

Recorded remotely this week by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields in their homes.

*All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,
come ye before him, and rejoice.*

*The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.*

*For why? the Lord our God is good;
his mercy is for ever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.*

*To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heaven and earth adore,
from men and from the angel-host
be praise and glory evermore. Amen.*

Words: William Kethe
Tune: Old Hundredth, by Ralph Vaughan Williams

INTRODUCTION

Paula Gooder

Chancellor, St Paul's Cathedral London and reader in the Church of England.

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

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Welcome to this worship at home on the fourth Sunday of Easter. A Sunday often known as Vocations Sunday. We are delighted that you have joined us this morning. You are most welcome. All the words that you need for the service you will find on the screen. Please do join in with us as you feel able. My name is Paula Gooder and I am Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral in London. I am also a licensed lay minister in the Diocese of London and in the Diocese of Birmingham where I live with my husband and family. My husband the Rev Peter Babington will join me at various points in leading worship this morning.

All of this worship has been pre-recorded either in our home or in the homes or workplaces of the different contributors. They have then been edited together at a later date. On Vocation's Sunday we give thanks to Jesus's call to each one of us to follow him. As Christians we are called to so many different things at different times. Today we take time to give thanks for the call already heard and pray that we will hear afresh Jesus's call, 'Come, follow me'.

THE CONFESSION

Rev Peter Babington

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.' Let us call to mind those times when we have refused to hear his call and have not lived out of the abundance of his grace.

Silence is kept.

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

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.

All **Amen.**

The president introduces the reader.

Our first reading this morning will be read to us by Katie.

A reader says

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (2.42-end)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

The King of Love my Shepherd is

Sung by St Martin's Voices

The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.

Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877)

Tune: St Columba, Irish Melody

EVERYDAY FAITH TESTIMONY

Given by: Senior Paramedic for the NHS – Matthew Sanderson and Bus driver – Robert Vassell.

TAIZÉ CHANT

The Lord is my light

Sung by St Martin's Voices

'The Lord is my light, my light and salvation. In God I trust. In God I trust'.

The gospeller says

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

All **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. (10.1-10)

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said, 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Paula Gooder

Chancellor, St Paul's Cathedral London and Reader in the Church of England.

SONG

The Lord's my Shepherd

Recorded specially for this service by Stuart Townend from his home.

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

He guides my ways in righteousness,
and He anoints my head with oil,
and my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

And I will trust in You alone,
and I will trust in You alone,
for Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
for You are with me, and Your rod and staff
are the comfort I need to know.

And I will trust in You alone,
and I will trust in You alone,
for Your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.

And I will trust in You alone,
and I will trust in You alone,
for Your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.

Words and Music: Stuart Townend

THE CREED

Let us declare our faith in God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

PRAYERS

Lord may you be with us as we are going through the time of prayer.

Dear almighty God, thank you for being a God that protects, as when we are in a time of crisis, that you really show up and you walk with us.

Thank you for this wonderful Gospel of His Son Jesus, that we are honoured to be able to share with the world. Thank you for being a faithful God, one that is unmoving and always goes before us. Thank you that even in a time like this that you make ways for us to know you and be together with you in your presence.

Lord in your mercy.

All: **Hear our prayer**

We pray that your presence Father may be felt in this world, more than it has ever been before. We declare that you are a God that has already overcome this world. Help us to be reminded of your promises, and the ultimate promise of everlasting joy,

Father we pray for our leaders that you've placed in power all around the world, we pray that they might be filled with wisdom and right understanding and for them to lead by compassion and love. Father may we also remember those in the world that are suffering at multiple fronts, those experiencing natural disasters, famine and many other really difficult situations. In this broken world Father, we just pray for your protection and your healing love to be poured out on to your children.

Lord in your mercy.

All: **Hear our prayer**

Father we pray for our country, we pray for Boris Johnson and the leadership of this country. We pray that they lead with wisdom and compassion, and pray that the decision to lift the lockdown restriction is made at the correct time, not too early but not too late for the sake of our economy.

Father we pray for our NHS, we thank you that we have it, and we pray for the brave men and women working in the front line of it. From those working to provide the correct equipment, to the nurses that are comforting those that are suffering. May we pray for those in this country who are dealing with poor health, loss, financial issues and poor quality of life. Father I pray that we see a healing, and a wide spread of your love across this whole nation.

Lord in your mercy.

All: **Hear our prayer**

Father we remember our communities, we thank you for the beautiful thing that is community. We think about our neighbours at this time. Thank you for friends and family, where we show kindness to one and another. As we are asked to stay inside let's remember that this is a time to act in lovingness. We pray for those dealing with difficult family situations, and whom staying at home may cause pain and distress. We ask you to stand in these houses and provide healing and safety. We also pray for those in our communities leaving to go to work and carrying out key jobs. We think of our very own chaplains working in the front lines. We thank you for loving them. We pray that you protect and strengthen them at this time Lord. For nurses, teachers, emergency services and other key workers who are being brave and leaving their families and communities in order to do an important job. We thank you for the commitment and integrity to continue in their calling.

Lord in your mercy.

All: **Hear our prayer**

Finally, Lord, on this Vocational Sunday help us identify new gifts and skills. May you call new people to lay and ordained ministry in the church, may you also show people how to live out their calling in their daily lives. May each and every person watching this service be reminded that they're created by love and created by you, that you have a wonderful and purposeful plan for their life, life that is to be filled with joy and great adventure, more than we could ever imagine.

Merciful father, accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ

All: **Amen.**

THE COLLECT

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.

All **Amen.**

Rejoicing in the new creation, let us pray with confidence as our saviour taught us:

ALL: 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.

THE BLESSING

Rev Peter Babington

Let us pray for God's blessing on us all

God the Father by whose glory
Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life
and the blessing of God Almighty,
The Father, the Son and Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

HYMN

Great is thy faithfulness

Recorded remotely this week by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields in their homes.

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.

Chorus:

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

(Chorus)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

(Chorus)

*Words: Thomas O Chisholm (1866-1960)
Tune: Faithfulness (Runyan), by William Runyan*

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