

Worship at Home on the Fifth Sunday of Easter with the Bishop of London

Introit

Come, my Way, my Truth, my life

Sung by St Martin's Voices

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath;
such a truth as ends all strife:
such a life as killeth death.*

*Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a light as shows a feast;
such a feast as mends in length;
such a strength as makes a guest.*

*Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move;
such a love as none can part:
such a heart as joys in love.*

Words: George Herbert (1593-1633 N.S.)

Music: Richard Lloyd

Welcome

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally

All We meet in the presence of God
**who knows our needs,
hears our cries,
feels our pains,
and heals our wounds.**

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

Welcome, my name is Sarah Mullally and I have the privilege of being the Bishop of London. You join me in my home with my family on this Fifth Sunday of Easter. Just round the corner from here is St Paul's Cathedral where there is a monument to Florence Nightingale, who is remembered for her mercy. Today we remember the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, and in doing so we celebrate nurses and healthcare workers today and all that they are doing at this time.

HYMN

Brother, sister let me serve you
Sung by St Martin's Voices

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christlight for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant, too.

Words and Music: Richard Gillard (born 1953)

CONFESSION

As we worship God together, let us call to mind the time when we have ignored his call to us, and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept.

All **Lord our God,
in our sins we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

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

All **Amen.**

REFLECTION

The Bishop of London

Bishop Sarah reflects on her own vocation.

Prayer used at the Annual Florence Nightingale Service at Westminster Abbey. We say together:

O God, the Father of light, from you comes every good and perfect gift: we give you thanks for Florence Nightingale and for her vision, courage, and compassion. Kindle our hearts, we pray, by the fire of your Holy Spirit, so that we may shine for you in the darkness of human suffering and sorrow; through him who is the light of the world, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

READING

Read by Jasmin Archibald

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (7.55-end)

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

Rachel Mead
Palliative Care Nurse

ANTHEM

I am the way, the truth, the life

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

*I am the way and the truth and the life
That's what Jesus said.*

*Without the way there is no going,
without the truth there is no knowing,
without the life there is no living.*

*I am the way and the truth and the life
That's what Jesus said.*

Words and Music: Trad. Fiji

THE GOSPEL

Read by Ruth May, Chief Nursing Officer for England

The gospeller says

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.'

All Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. (14.1-14)

All Glory to you, O Lord.

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Bishop of London

ANTHEM

By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered
Sung by St Martin's Voices

*By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered,
And confidently waiting come what may,
We know that God is with us night and morning
And never fails to greet us each new day.*

*Yet is this heart by its old foe tormented,
Still evil days bring burdens hard to bear.
O give our frightened souls the sure salvation
For which, O Lord, you taught us to prepare.*

*And when this cup you give is filled to brimming
With bitter suffering, hard to understand,
We take it thankfully and without trembling,
Out of so good, and so beloved, a hand.*

*Yet when again, in this same world, you give us
The joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
We shall remember all the days we lived through,
And our whole life shall then be yours alone.*

*Words: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000) based on the German of Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)
Music: William Bradley Roberts*

THE CREED

Let us declare our faith in God.

All We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on 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.

REFLECTION

Felicia Kwaku

Nurse at Kings College Hospital, London

PRAYERS

Led by Gladys Ekpo-Daniels

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you are the way. Give confidence, skill, and energy to all nurses, doctors, medical professionals, and all who care for the people who have been infected by Covid-19. As we remember Florence Nightingale, inspire us as we think of new ways to care for the sick and influence the course of the pandemic. Help us all to care for one another, too, when we find ourselves in trying and unhappy situations. Give us compassion and courage each day.

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, you are the truth.

Be with our Church communities, helping them by the Spirit to proclaim the good news of your risen life in their work and ministry. Be with us as we live our lives in this changed world and help us know that you are the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

All Guide and inspire the people who lead our nation, those who develop plans and policies, and all who have special responsibilities during the pandemic. Help them in their thinking and give them strength and insight.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, you are the life. Dwell with us as we remain separated from people we love and care for. Give calm to those who are anxious and fearful. Comfort and heal the sick in body and mind. Give peace to the dying, to those who care for them, and to all who grieve. Help them to understand that you went to prepare a place for each of us with the Father.

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let us pause for a moment and offer up our own personal prayers, for those people and situations now on our minds and hearts.

ANTHEM

A Prayer of St Patrick

Sung by St Martin's Voices

*Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.*

*Christ above me, Christ beneath me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.*

*Words: Patrick of Ireland (attributed) (c386-c460),
Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)
Music: John Rutter*

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God.

All Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers,
for the sake of your Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE COLLECT

The Bishop of London

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Rejoicing in God's new creation, let us pray with confidence as our saviour has taught us:

**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

O Jesus I have promised
Sung by St Martin's Voices

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me,
my Master and my Friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end:
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.

O let me see thy footmarks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my Friend.

Words: John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)
Tune: Wolvercote, W. H Ferguson

THE DISMISSAL

The Bishop of London

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father the Son and Holy Spirit
be with you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

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