

Worship at Home

Sunday Service for Mental Health Awareness Week

WELCOME

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

Christ has ascended on high.
All He reigns for ever. Alleluia.

Lift up your hearts.
All We lift them up to the Lord. Alleluia.

The president introduces the service

May I offer you a very warm welcome on this Sunday after Ascension Day. My name is the Rev Professor Gina Radford, and until a year ago I was deputy chief medical officer of England, where I had the privilege of looking after people's physical and mental health. Now I'm team vicar here in South Brent and Rattery on the edge of South Dartmoor, where I have the privilege of looking after and supporting people's spiritual health. And so I now open the doors of St Petroc's church South Brent, virtually, rather than really, and warmly invite you to join with me in worshipping our Lord. Now this week is Mental Health Awareness Week, which has a particular resonance this year. As many of us are facing the challenges that Covid has brought to us. Mental health and wellbeing is a theme that will be running through our service and further resources can be found on the Church of England website. So now let us gather our thoughts, let us still our minds as we listen to some music and prepare ourselves to worship God.

HYMN

Crown him with many crowns

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

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
those wounds yet visible above
in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise:
his reign shall know no end,
and round his piercèd feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres
ineffably sublime:
all hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

Words: Matthew Bridges (1800-1894)
Tune: Diademata, G. J Elvey

The president says

Seeing we have a great high priest
who has passed into the heavens,
Jesus the Son of God,
let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith,
and make our confession to almighty God.

Silence is kept.

All O King enthroned on high,
filling the earth with your glory:
holy is your name, Lord God almighty.
In our sinfulness we cry to you
to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

May God almighty,
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring you his pardon and his peace, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

REFLECTION

Jenny Flannagan

Youth Scape, Luton

A reader says

The first reading is taken from the Acts of the Apostles. (1.6-14)

So when they had come together, they asked Jesus, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

HRH The Duke of Cambridge

ANTHEM

Amazing Grace

Sung by St Martin's Voices

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.*

*The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine.*

*I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.*

Amazing grace.

Music: Arr. Will Todd
Words: John Newton (1725 – 1807)

The gospeller says

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, 'Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.'

All **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. (17.1-11)

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

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Rev Professor Gina Radford

MUSIC

There is a balm in Gilead
Sung by St Martin's Voices

*There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sinsick soul.*

*There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sinsick soul.*

*Sometimes I feel discouraged,
and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again.*

*There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sinsick soul.*

*There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sinsick soul.*

*Words & Music: Spiritual
Arr. William Dawson*

Let us declare our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

All **Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

So let us now join together in prayer.

PRAYERS

Led by Rev Professor Chris Cook

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, hear us as we pray for ourselves, for one another, for your Church and for a needy world.

We pray for those who are anxious, isolated, lonely, or grieving because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We pray for all whom social distance, self-isolation or shielding has caused separation from the ones they love. We pray for those whose mental health has suffered because of the impact of the pandemic on our lives, our jobs and our economy.

Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer

We lament the stigma and prejudice that infected our attitudes to mental illness long before COVID-19 appeared. We pray for all who have not been made welcome in our churches, our communities, our homes, or our hearts. We remember especially the homeless, prisoners, the poor, members of the UK's minority ethnic or LGBTQ communities, and all whose mental health has suffered because of exclusion, prejudice, discrimination, rejection, bullying, or cruel words.

Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer

We pray for all whose thoughts or feelings are troubled. We pray for those who are depressed, anxious, or afraid, for those who feel that you are far away from them, and for those who feel that life is not worth living. We pray for those whose high moods endanger their wellbeing and that of those around them. We pray for those who hear voices that are intrusive, threatening, abusive or evil. We pray for those whose thoughts are dominated by delusional beliefs. We pray for those who struggle with cravings for alcohol, drugs, food, gambling or sex. We pray for those who suffer from anorexia, and for all whose body image is a source of distress to them.

Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer

We pray for relatives, friends, carers, and all who struggle with the impact of mental ill health on relationships, homes and families. We pray for children and families receiving help from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. We pray for children and adults traumatised by sexual, physical or emotional abuse.

We pray for those who suffer mental ill health in old age, for those whose memories and faculties are taken from them by dementia, and for those who care for them.

Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer

We pray for counsellors, psychotherapists, psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, nurses, occupational therapists, chaplains and all who care for people suffering from mental illness. We pray for members of therapeutic communities, mutual support groups and recovery colleges. We pray for charities and local church projects, devoted to the care and support of people with mental health problems. We pray for those who undertake research into mental disorders, seeking to relieve and prevent mental suffering. We pray for politicians, policy makers and managers who seek to plan, build and deliver better, more effective and more compassionate, mental health services.

Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray that, as Christ's body here on earth, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we might bring healing and new life to those who suffer in mind and soul, both within our churches and in wider society. May we be bringers of forgiveness, kindness, faith, hope and love. Save us from shallow answers that add to the suffering of others. Help us to listen well. We pray that our churches may be places within which we welcome, nurture, encourage and include one another, and in which we do not tolerate stigma and prejudice. May we know your presence with us, may we find you in one another, and may we be Christ for others.

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

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph in your kingdom of heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
All **Amen.**

So now we pray together

**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.

BLESSING

The love of the Lord Jesus
draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus
strengthen you in his service,
and the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
Be upon you this day and for ever more.

All Amen.

MUSIC

UK Blessing

Churches around the UK sing a blessing over the nation

Acknowledgements

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