

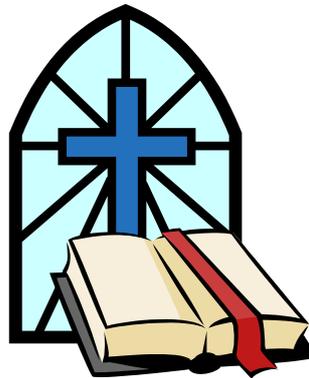
HOLY TRINITY AND ST PETER'S



Sunday 26th April 2020

3rd Sunday of Easter

A very warm welcome to all those joining us in our virtual worship today. If possible, use this service at 10am so we are worshipping together. Try saying the parts in bold aloud.



Introduction

The Great Fifty Days of Eastertide form a single festival period in which the tone of joy created on Easter Day is sustained through the following seven weeks, and the Church celebrates the gloriously risen Christ:

Triumphant in his glory now, his sceptre ruleth all, earth, heaven and hell before him bow, and at his footstool fall. (Fulbert of Chartres)

Opening Response

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

And also with you

This is the day that the Lord has made

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Here are words you may trust.

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead: he is our salvation, our eternal glory. If we die with him, we shall live with him; if we endure, we shall reign with him. If we deny him, he will deny us; if we are faithless, he keeps faith.

For he has broken the power of death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.
cf 2 Timothy 2.11–13

Confession

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God.

Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil and confess our sins in penitence and faith.
cf Romans 6.10

Let us begin by reflecting on the week that has just passed:

Thank God for all the blessings you have received.

Consider the things which we have done, or not done, or even our thoughts which we now wish to say sorry to God for:

Let us then return to the Lord our God and say to him:

Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you. We are not worthy to be called your children. We turn to you again. Have mercy on us, bring us back to yourself as those who once were dead but now have life through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution:

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect for today

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Let us pray for a closer union with Christ in his suffering and in his glory.

Readings for today

The Old Testament reading today is from Psalm 116 verses 1 to 7:

- I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;
he heard my cry for mercy.
- ² Because he turned his ear to me,
I will call on him as long as I live.
- ³ The cords of death entangled me,
the anguish of the grave came over me;
I was overcome by distress and sorrow.
- ⁴ Then I called on the name of the LORD:
'LORD, save me!'
- ⁵ The LORD is gracious and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.
- ⁶ The LORD protects the unwary;
when I was brought low, he saved me.
- ⁷ Return to your rest, my soul,
for the LORD has been good to you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The two disciples told what had happened on the road to Emmaus, and how Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. **Alleluia.**

Luke 24.35

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, chapter 24 verses 13 to 20 and 28 to 35 (perhaps read it twice):

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognising him.

¹⁷ He asked them, 'What are you discussing together as you walk along?' They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, 'Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?'

¹⁹ 'What things?' he asked.

'About Jesus of Nazareth,' they replied. 'He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him;

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going further. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, 'Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?'

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, 'It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognised by them when he broke the bread.

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This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Activities

A choice of activities are attached separately for you to do, some of which relates to our Gospel reading today.

Talk

Why is that we can never stop talking about the things that are happening, even if talking about them annoys us or makes us unhappy? The two people in the Gospel reading were talking about everything that had happened in Jerusalem. They were both upset, their faces were downcast but the man who joined them seemed to know nothing of what was happening. I am sure that this must have felt strange to them.

They did not recognize Jesus. They were kept from seeing who He was, maybe they were too engrossed in their conversation to even see Him coming? Why were they kept from seeing who He was?

They were on a journey. The Bible is full of journeys, life is a journey. Sometimes it is not about the destination, it is about the getting there. If they had recognised Jesus, the conversation would have been very different and they may have not even heard His explanations. We have expressions like 'I can laugh about that now' and '20/20 hindsight' when we have been through something, we can see the lesson that was to be learnt. When we are going through things

and still on the journey, it is harder to see the lesson. Each of us is on our own journey, Jesus will meet each of us on that journey. We may not understand all the answers, but we should always still ask the questions.

What will have changed when we meet again? I am aware of members of my family who have cut off their hair or are growing it. Even though I have seen them on a screen it will look strange when I see them face-to-face again. This is a physical change. Most of us won't probably look that different in a few weeks. We may have a bit more of a tan from sitting in the garden or taking daily exercise, but there won't be a big change. However, I do hope that we will have changed inside; that we will have new perspectives on life and new priorities. I do hope that the world will understand what is truly important; that the things people are feeling now will not be quickly forgotten. The people we realise we miss we will not take for granted when we see them again. The time we spend as a family can be enjoyed and be fitted into a busy schedule. But also the time we have saved not doing something we don't miss, we don't have to go back to it. The money we have saved can be spent on more fulfilling things and helping those in need.

When Jesus was speaking 'their hearts were burning within them.' This has not changed. Jesus knows how to speak into our hearts. He knows the words to say. He opened the scriptures to the two people. If we do not know where to look, we know to look at the Bible. Things may not be immediately straightforward but all the answers are there. Sometimes we need to talk to someone about things, sometimes we need someone else's perspective. Sometimes we have the answer but we need to speak it out loud into a question. We phone people and ask how they are, how things are going. We can also phone someone and let them know how we are, answer a question that has not been asked. We can also ask questions. Phone someone and get them to help you understand if you have a question. Someone else might have the same the question (but not be brave enough to ask it), so if you ask it, maybe you will help someone else get the answer.

'Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.' *Hebrews 13 v 8*

Jesus does not change. At this time we can go to Him. We should go to Him, we should seek Him and we will find Him. When the two people found Jesus they told the other eleven. They passed on their excitement, they passed on the news, passed on what God was saying to them and who He is to them and in return they heard from other people.

At this time we may not be able to run to Jerusalem, though you can always go out for a run, but we can tell people, we can keep in touch, we can pass on what God is doing in our lives.

When things happen in our life, we should see the opportunities, look past the difficulties to see what God wants us to see at this time. Yes, we have

restrictions, but we also have time to reflect on what God is doing in our lives. The government, but more importantly a heavenly mandate, is to keep in touch and make sure that people are healthy. The government is concerned about our physical and mental health; God is concerned about our physical, mental and our spiritual health.

Amen

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

Alleluia.

John 20.19, 20

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Statement of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God:

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.

A prayer of thanks for our giving to God

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Prayers of Intercession

Father we place into your hand the world. We pray for those affected by the mudslides in Kenya, mudslides in Kenya, the forest fires in Ukraine and tornado in America. We place into your hands the governments of the world who are dealing with crisis after crisis. Give them wisdom and guidance on how to deal with their country and to support the needs of their people.

Father we place into your hands those who are suffering from illness; cancer, pneumonia, flu and those who have life threatening surgeries to undergo. Keep them safe and provide for them the care they need and deserve.

Father we place into your hands those struggling with mental health in this strange time: provide communications for them, people who can make connections, phone or text. We pray for all the vulnerable people and ask for your protection.

Father we place into your hands our Queen and her family, our government and councillors, protect and guide them. We pray they will be safe from harm and will be able to do their duties to the fullness of their ability in this stressful time. We pray that the Christians in parliament will be your witnesses and that they will know that you are with them every step of the way.

Father we place into your hands our church leaders and church families. We pray for Heather and Sharon and our lay readers. We bring to you those who are working so hard to bring a service out each Sunday so we can feel connected to our church family. Walk with us as we share the service together but are still apart.

Father we place into your hands the self-employed and the small businesses. We pray they will gain financial help and will be able to carry on their work when they are allowed to. We pray for those temporarily unemployed. Give local councils the wisdom in how to deal with this and provide for their community. We pray no one will be forgotten.

Father we place into your hands those who are still needed for work and those volunteering. Keep them and their families safe, provide for them the things they need to keep safe. Thank you Lord for their hard work and dedication. Thank you Lord for those who have been healed so far.

Father we place into your hands all the GCSE, A level and further education students. We pray that solutions will be found. We pray for those students who might lose their place at college or university. We pray for the home-schooling community; and ask that the government might recognise home-schooled children's rights to their marks during this time, praying that their futures would not be affected in an unfair way.

Father we place into your hands our friends and family. Keep our families safe from any kind of harm. We pray they will be able to carry on putting food on the table, clothe their children and themselves and pay the bills. We place into your hands the things we cannot do, but that we will focus on the things we can do. We pray that in all this we will not lose sight of you. That we will always remember you are walking with us, suffering with us, crying with us but also sharing our joy and laugh with us.

Father we place into your hands our fears, our worries, our inadequacies, our frustrations and our disappointments, but also our hopes and dreams. We pray that we would come out of this with a stronger faith in you, stronger family bonds and a stronger reliance on you. We pray you would speak to each of us in this time and guide us in what is right for each of us.

Merciful Father,

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayerful reflections:

Spend some time thanking God for what you have and have received.

Pray for those on the front line who are still serving so faithfully.

Pray for those whose livelihoods have been impacted.

Pray for those on your heart.

Pray for yourself – be honest with God about your fears and feelings.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us so we pray:

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.**

Closing Prayers

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Galatians 6:14

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

The Blessing

God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord, empower us and fill us with Christ's peace. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Commission

We are raised to new life with Christ.

Go in his peace. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (2000) ©The Archbishops' Council

Notices for the week ahead

For us all

Coronavirus Guidance

Following Church of England advice, there are no services of public worship at Holy Trinity or St Peter's Church for the foreseeable future. This sadly includes all baptisms and weddings. Please hold in your prayers all those couples and families who are affected by this.

The situation with funerals is also extremely difficult for those mourning the loss of a loved one.

The Churches' Premises are closed to everyone- please do not attempt to access them with any keys that you may have.

Food Bank

Obviously due the measures taken to deal with the coronavirus we are not able to continue with the bringing of items to Church or deliveries to the warehouse. This is at a time when the Food Bank is going to be under huge pressure especially now the schools are closed.

In the last month, the Food Bank has distributed food to 573 people including 227 children.

The Food Bank is still working with its volunteers and there are collection points in most supermarkets. If you are visiting a supermarket for your own shopping please consider adding a few items to donate in this way. A list of the most urgently required items can be found on the food bank website.

Please note, they are no longer able to accept infant formula milk or baby food due to a UNICEF directive.

Can we urge everyone to consider if they can give a donation of money?

Please visit their website- www.nuneaton.foodbank.org.uk and click on the Donate button at the top right of the page.

This is a really valuable way we can collectively as a Church show our love to the vulnerable people in our society

Scams - Be careful

Please be aware there are an increased number of scams doing the rounds trying to take advantage of these difficult times. Before clicking on links, giving out bank details etc... do check they are genuine as there are some very plausible and convincing scammers.

Library Books and Services

As you all know libraries are currently closed to the public and you may run out of reading material during the lock down / isolation.

However WCC Library is still working remotely and anyone who is not already a member can join remotely. In particular it is possible to access and download e-books through their services.

All you need to access these for free are your library card number and email address. Visit <https://library.warwickshire.gov.uk/> to find out how.

If you're not already a Warwickshire Libraries member you can join online, visit <https://library.warwickshire.gov.uk/> and click 'Join Online'. Our library staff will send you your membership number and then you can get started straight away!

If you are running out of books and have not access to a computer or tablet then use this notice sheet to see if anyone in the Churches have the type of books that you normally read and maybe they can deliver them to your door – of course respecting social distancing requirements.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

You might like to let Nick B-B know of any person who is celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion. It would be lovely to do this as we have to celebrate these events in isolation, but this is a way we can collectively celebrate with them.

Penny, from Holy Trinity, is going to have a special birthday on May 8th and all her planned events to celebrate her birthday have been cancelled, so please hold Penny in your thoughts and prayers.

Holy Trinity Church



Holy Trinity Church Magazine

In view of the coronavirus and that it cannot be printed as the Church Premises are closed, Sue has prepared a magazine for April which has been e-mailed with Heather and Sharon's second pastoral letter.

If you deliver and can get an e-mail address **without visiting the people** you deliver to, we can add that to the circulation list. Also those due to contribute items should continue to send them to Sue.

Hartshill Community Centre, Community Library and Café

Following Government Advice all of these are currently closed.

Isolated but not alone- Hartshill Community Helping each other

In line with the Government appeal help is needed for those self-isolating and volunteers are needed.

During this time many elderly or ill people are self-isolating due to the spread of Covid-19 (coronavirus).

If you can offer any time to help out people on your street by picking up groceries, prescriptions, emergency supplies or offering a friendly phone call to ease loneliness, then please phone Olwyn on 07927141037.

Please also remember your local shops are well stocked.

For any more details on how to help or if you need help finding your local volunteer again call Olwyn.

St Peter's Church



If you are self-isolating you are not alone

If you need help during this time, please be encouraged to make contact with local Counsellor Daniel Gissane who is putting together a team of volunteers to support those in need, on 07771 340650.

Age UK's website has some fantastic advice about how to stay safe and well at home. Take a look at: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/coronavirus/staying-safe-and-well-at-home/>

Age UK is also encouraging "neighbourly volunteering" and has some great advice on how to do this during the COVID-19 pandemic. Have a look at <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/neighbourly-volunteering/>

Any items to be included on the weekly notice sheet and messages please email Nick Blamire-Brown at njbb@hotmail.co.uk

Please be aware that all documents are now going to be much more in the public domain (emailed out and they have been posted too on Facebook and possibly church websites in the future.) Please be careful to get permission from any person you wish to mention.

Messages

We really do want to encourage our church members (both Churches) to use this section to give messages of encouragement to others or items of reflection so we will continue to do that and hope some of you will join us.

Message from Heather

It continues to be such a strange time. People have shown so much resilience and strength under fire. Acts of human kindness have been glimpses of hope and love in a society that is straining under the stresses of fear and uncertainty. Selfless service still brings us to tears of gratitude and to our front doors each week to clap and cheer them on. People don't always value what their support may mean to another. A quick phone call to say hello. A letter or card sent to show another person they are not forgotten. A short text or email to just say hello could mean the world to someone struggling with the lack of human contact. Be kind. Show care. Demonstrate love. You may want to say but it's only.... No... there's no such thing as 'only' in God's Kingdom.... for whatever you do for the least of these...you are doing it for God. Bless you and thank you!

Message from Sharon

This week I have been reflecting on the quietness that we are experiencing more and on one of my early evening dog walks I was reminded about how Elijah, after witnessing the great wind, the earthquake and the fire on the top of the mountain, heard God's voice in the silence. Have you heard God's voice speaking to you recently? During my worship times at the latter end of this week I've very much felt as I am praying for my local communities, which for me very much includes Hartshill and Galley Common, that God is prompting me over and over to pray our Diocesan prayer:

***Father, pour out your spirit upon us,
Grant us a new vision of your glory, a new experience of your power,
a new faithfulness to your word and a new consecration to your service,
that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come:
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen***

This really is a great prayer to be praying regularly but particularly at this time which we have never known the like of in any of our lifetimes. May I encourage you to join me in raising this prayer to God in these coming weeks - a prayer that will unite us as we pray for God's kingdom to be widely known amongst our local communities.

I believe, that despite the awfulness of how many people are sick and dying, or have died, God continues to work through his people in the hardest of times to establish and enhance all that is good and lovely in this world, that comes from Him alone. We're already seeing this in practice. May we continue to hear God's voice, respond to it and witness God's kingdom coming in.

Message from Nick B-B

Our lives and our media are dominated by the Coronavirus crisis so this week I thought I would give you a Covid 19 free message!

As some of you know gardening is a passion of mine (along with Kylie, Arsenal, Wasps Rugby Team and of course Jan!). Even though our garden is small I feel very lucky to have it and I feel very sorry for those who live in flats, especially families who do not have access to a garden.

When I am gardening I am not thinking of anything else. I feel at peace with myself. What I love is seeing the subtle changes in the garden during the different seasons. It never ceases to amaze me when some of my plants start to show small signs of growth in the ground after dying back completely in the winter. The same is true if I plant seeds or take a cutting to watch them grow into strong plants. Particularly at this time of year the act of planting and watching plants grow makes me look forward to the summer with excitement, hope and optimism. The hope and looking forward reminds me of the Easter message of new life and hope.

Although many people seeing our garden may not see as anything special, for me it is an oasis of beauty and full of interesting insects and other creatures. That reminds me too that it is God that created our world and enables me to enjoy my garden and its treasures.

Lastly I started by saying that when I am in my garden I feel calm and at peace and of course it is Jesus, through his presence in our lives, that can bring comfort, calm and peace during these stormy times going on around us (ok not quite Covid 19 free, but almost!)

Please pray for the following in the coming week:

You may wish to print this section off for use during week

Coronavirus Crisis

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support,
be with those who care for the sick, the anxious
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, as you know the whole world is trying to deal with the impact of the coronavirus. We pray for all countries and communities as they consider what steps they can take to care and support each other. We pray in particular for the elderly, vulnerable and isolated as they face the fear and consequences of catching the virus. We pray also for all leaders who are having to make difficult decisions to deal with the crisis and all those working in the health sector which is under such pressure. Amen

Leaders and Clergy

Heather and Sharon in their ministries in Hartshill and Galley Common;
Kate and Debbie our St Peter's churchwardens, Nick and Sally our lay readers
and Holy Trinity's churchwardens; Ruth & Rob Kinderman in their youth work;
Michael Brandsma in his ministry in Atherstone; and Bill Walton in his curacy.

Pray too for our Archbishops, Bishops and Bishops' Staff team as they lead the nation and diocese.

Pray for the government and local/national/international leaders as they make life changing and potentially life-saving decisions.

Those on our hearts at Holy Trinity

Rachel M and Family; Mark J; Maureen; Olive; Julie; Jan & Tony; Mark P; Rebecca; Jane.

Also for care firms who are under severe pressure to protect both staff and residents.

Those on our hearts at St Peter's

Lucy W, Lucy and Michael B, Mark, Brian V and others known to us

Family and Friends of those recently deceased

Raymond Ball (Funeral is on 30th April at 3.30pm) – please pray especially for Julie and her family.

For all those dealing with loss and bereavement caused by the Coronavirus nationally and internationally.



Prayer List

Please notify Nick B-B of the names of anyone for whom you would like prayer and any thanks for prayers answered (njbb@hotmail.co.uk or 02476395467)

NB. Please ensure that you have the person's permission first.

If you want to be added to the email prayer chain/group or have any prayers you want to put on the prayer chain please email:- prayers.holytrinity@gmail.com