

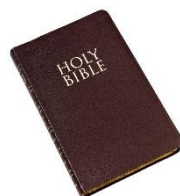


St Maxentius Church - Worship at Home



## EASTER 6 – SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021

Here below we have an outline of our service for you to follow at home if you can't be with us. Choose a quiet reflective space and to make it more meaningful have a cross, bible and candle to make your sacred space.



### INTRODUCTION

Good morning everyone, hope you are well, It is nice to see so many of you back in church and we will monitor our numbers. I hope you are finding this service useful and are able to worship in a nice way at home. I can't believe we have been doing this so long, but things are feeling much safer and with care, hopefully we can get together in near normality soon.

Don't forget the Team Christian Aid walk on the 10<sup>th</sup> July and we have our APCM via Zoom on the 18<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30. We have to publish the electoral roll, obviously we do not want people's details publically online or displayed so if you need to check your details, please ask Carol or one of the wardens and we can help. Contact Jo or Chris for details on how to join us on zoom.

Thursday is Ascension Day and a team service will be held at St. Maxentius at 7.30pm, Peter will be taking this service.

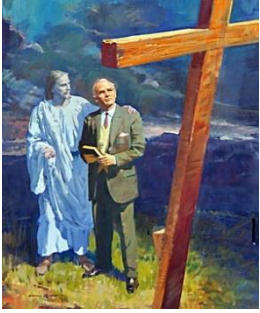
Today's reflection is by Peter and Intercessions by Mark Pearson, many thanks to them for their help.

Jan B.

### PRAYERS OF PREPARATION

**Almighty God to whom all hearts are open all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## CONFESSION



The Spirit of the Lord fills the world and knows our every word and deed. Let us then open ourselves to the Lord and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## GLORIA



**Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father. We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ only son of the Father Lord God Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One , you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## THE COLLECT

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## THE NEW TESTAMENT READING

ACTS 10, 44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.

The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God.**

## THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you O Lord.**

JOHN 15, 9-17.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love, I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

This is the Gospel of the Lord – **Praise to you O Christ**



## REFLECTION

This is part 2 from last week, the next section of John chapter 15 – though still only part of the long “Farewell Discourse” – where Jesus speaks to the disciples which runs really from chapter 14 to the end of chapter 17.

In this section we still find the themes of bearing fruit, of “abiding” though here it is abiding in Jesus’ love. And so the ideas of being connected to God and God in us, and so bearing fruit are developed further, now as we discover we are not servants – not those who are told what to do and who have to do it - but **friends** who share in knowledge and who share in a common desire to do things in common.

At the beginning of the gospel we read that the world did not know him; that the light came into the world but was resisted. But now we discover there is a way to become friends with God, friends with the “Word”; friend is a profound word to use, though it is one we also use very casually. I still say “my friends from school” even if I haven’t seen them for years and don’t know what they are doing, but when Jesus says he calls us friends, he means it.

Do I consider myself to be a friend of God? Do I consider that God is my friend?

Can we consider this for ourselves – but there is a catch; if we wish to be God’s friends then we need to love one another, love others, as God loves them; if you like, to be in God’s ‘team’ we need to play by his rules. We are welcome in his team but we must sign up to his rules or commandments.

So there are some simple questions in the end, as we reflect on this complex passage.

- ✓ Do we want to be God’s friend?
- ✓ Do we know we are God’s friend and God our friend?
- ✓ Does this excite us and encourage us in our lives and our living it out?
- ✓ Do we realise how extraordinary and amazing this is?

I hope we can answer Yes to all these questions.

Rev Canon Peter

## **THE CREED**



**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; 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.**

## **INTERCESSIONS**

During the intercessions, we pray for the church, our country, our government, people in difficulty and those who have died. You can use your own prayers or if you *prefer here are some on today’s theme.*



Faithful God, your son Jesus Christ gave us a new commandment of love for each other. We ask you to teach us to love you in our neighbours that by serving them we might also serve you.

**Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer**

Mighty God, we pray for your church which day by day gathers to praise you and to hear your holy word. We pray for our Christian sisters and brothers worshipping around the world in small rural churches, great city cathedrals and on the internet. Give us here in Bradshaw, a sense of expectation as we come and inspiration as we go. Bless our Clergy in the Turton Moorland Team whose preaching and teaching inspire us with the message of your salvation.

**Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer**

Creator God, the world often seems to be a violent and fearful place. Give us the strength to love our enemies and to pray for those, who by violence and acts of terrorism, distort and demonise your wonderful creation.

**Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer**

Father God, may our closeness to family and friends never make us exclusive, shutting others out, but always inclusive, welcoming others. Encourage us in outgoing hospitality and keep us from becoming possessive with those we love.

**Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer**

Loving God, help us all to be part of the healing ministry of your church. Encourage us to constantly pray for those we know who are suffering in body, mind or spirit; those who are suffering from the Coronavirus. Deepen our love for our neighbours especially those who are weak. Help us to console the sorrowful and give hope to the dying. We pray today for those who are not well in our parish and especially, Craig Mochrie and Helena Hargreaves

**Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer**

Merciful God, your love reaches beyond the grave. At the end of our days on earth be with us and with those we love and with those whom we love and have gone before us, especially remembering those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Percy L Wood, Thomas Dyke and Louisa Wignall. We pray now for those who have



recently died; give to the departed the perfect joy of your eternal love and to those bereaved by their passing, the consolation of your perfect love.

### **Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer**

Holy God, send us out into the world today, mindful that as witnesses and servants, we should make you known in every place we visit and bear witness to the Gospel with acts of faith, hope and love.

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

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**



**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in Heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

### **THE BLESSING**

May the spirit who hovered over the waters when the world was created, breathe into us the life he gives, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with us now and for evermore Amen.

