

Welcome to our worship on this **Fifth Sunday of Easter, 10th May 2020** coming from **St Mark's Church in Reigate**. I'm stood in the Church as Bishop Christopher has said that from today clergy can record and stream services from inside our church buildings, the first time this has happened since 22nd March. The Church is still closed to public worship and private prayer, but this change marks a beginning of the journey back to meeting together. In our worship we lift up our prayers to our heavenly Father who always hears our prayers.

As you watch or listen to this broadcast, perhaps you can join in with the usual responses, the hymns and with the Lord's Prayer.

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

Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Dear friends, this weekend we commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe, when the sounds of war fell silent on this continent. We come together conscious of our need for God's forgiveness for the sin and the desire to dominate others that leads to conflict between people, and war between nations. And as we remember the many soldiers, sailors, and airmen who gave their lives restraining evil and opposing tyranny, so we also come in thanksgiving for the years of peace that the nations of Europe have enjoyed since the Second World War. We gather joyfully today in a virtual community, as those who gathered on that first Victory day, glad of each other's company, and grateful for the laughter and love that follows times of sadness and loss.

We also thank God for Florence Nightingale who was born 200 years ago this week; for her enterprise and heroism, and for the example she has left us. We pray that her ideals of compassion, quality of care, and training may continue to inspire and sustain nurses everywhere. We praise God for all those nurses who, like her, have carried the lamp of healing into the dark places of our world. Let us prepare to hear and receive God's holy word and to bring before God the needs of our world. Let us remember with pride the vocation we have each received, and prepare to dedicate ourselves anew to the service of all in need.

We join together in the Hymn: **Praise, my soul, the King of heaven**

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise the everlasting King.**

**Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia,
glorious in his faithfulness.**

**Father-like, he tends and spares us,
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Alleluia, alleluia,
widely as his mercy flows.**

**Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise with us the God of grace.**

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

The grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all. Let us come to him, in sorrow for our sins and failures, seeking healing and salvation.

In a dark and disfigured world we have not held out the light of life:
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

In a hungry and despairing world we have failed to share our bread:
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

In a cold and loveless world we have kept the love of God to ourselves:
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon *you*,
pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins,
confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness,
and keep *you* in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We join together in singing this hymn version of the Gloria.

**Glory be to God in heaven.
and to all on earth, His peace;
Lord and Father, King in glory,
gifts of praise in us release,
so our worship and thanksgiving
from our hearts will never cease.**

**Christ incarnate, sent by Father
to redeem, renew, restore;
risen Lamb, in glory seated,
hear our prayers, Lord, we implore.
Now to Father, Son, and Spirit,
be all glory evermore.**

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The Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter.
Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Our first reading is brought to us today by **Terrence Hancock**.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles chapter 7 verses 55-60

Standing before the high priest and the council, Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, 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.
Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, alleluia.
I am the first and last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.
Alleluia.

A reading from John chapter 14 verses 1-14

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

Jesus said: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

We sing the **HYMN Thou art the Way**

**Thou art the Way: by thee alone
from sin and death we flee;
and they who would the Father seek
must seek him, Lord, by thee.**

**Thou art the Truth: thy word alone
true wisdom can impart;
thou only canst inform the mind
and purify the heart.**

**Thou art the Life: the rending tomb
proclaims thy conquering arm;
and those who put their trust in thee
nor death nor hell shall harm.**

**Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life:
grant us that Way to know,
that Truth to keep, that Life to win,
whose joys eternal flow.**

George Washington Doane (1799-1859)

Our faith is in the living God, and so we 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.**

O Lord our God, as we remember, teach us the ways of peace. As we treasure memories, teach us to hope. As we give thanks for the sacrifices of the past, help us to make your future in this world, until your kingdom comes.

Nigel Perkins leads us in prayer.

Lord, in your mercy:
Hear our prayer.

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

We sing the **HYMN God is our strength and refuge**

**God is our strength and refuge,
our present help in trouble;
and we therefore will not fear,
though the earth should change!
Though mountains shake and tremble,
though swirling floods are raging,
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!**

**There is a flowing river,
within God's holy city;
God is in the midst of her –
she shall not be moved!
God's help is swiftly given,
thrones vanish at his presence –
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!**

**Come, see the works of our maker,
learn of his deeds all-powerful:
wars will cease across the world
when he shatters the spear!
Be still and know your creator,
uplift him in the nations –
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!**

After Psalm 46, Richard Bewes (born 1934) Copyright © Richard Bewes/Jubilate Hymns

Let us pray:
Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen.

Life-giving God,
you alone have power over life and death, over health and sickness:
Give power, wisdom, and gentleness to those
who follow the lead of Florence Nightingale,
that they, bearing with them your presence,
may not only heal but bless,
and shine as lanterns of hope in the darkest hours of pain and fear;
through Jesus Christ, the healer of body and soul.

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.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest;
to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth,
and all people, peace and concord;
and to us and all his servants, life everlasting;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and all those
whom you love, this day and always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!