

Parish of Swaythling For Eastertide at Home

Greeting

Grace mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
And also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is Risen
He is Risen indeed. Alleluia

You are invited to keep a moment of silence as we begin.

Words of preparation for worship

**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.**

The Confession

Lord God, You raise us to new life in Christ,
forgive us when we chose to live in our own
strength.

Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Christ, You are forgiveness and love and

yet sometimes we fail to love ourselves and
others.

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy

Lord Spirit, You lead us into new revelations,
forgive us when we close our minds to your
prompting.

Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy.

Receive God's forgiveness.

The Gloria

*If we were together in this Easter season we would be
praying the Gloria together, standing and singing it,
so let us imagine Christians around the world
joining together as we say (or sing if you
remember the tune, there is only your household
to hear if you go wrong!).*

**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 sin of the world,
have mercy on 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,
you filled your disciples with boldness and
fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

Psalm

Psalm 116:1-3, 10-end

- 1 I love the Lord, because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.
- 2 Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
- 3 The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.

- 10 I kept my faith, even when I said,
'I am greatly afflicted';
- 11 I said in my consternation,
'Everyone is a liar.'
- 12 What shall I return to the Lord
for all his bounty to me?
- 13 I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord,

14 I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.

15 Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones.

16 O Lord, I am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your serving-
maid.

You have loosed my bonds.

17 I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the Lord.

18 I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,

19 in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Praise the Lord!

Reading

Acts 2: 14a; 36-41

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save

yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all

that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Reflection

The reflection below was also recorded in a video this week

Author and Poet Joel Mckerrow writes about how much of how we all see the world is dictated by the framework (the fishbowl as he calls it) that we have grown up in. Psychologists continue to debate what impacts us more, nature or nurture, but few dispute that much of how we see the world, understand people, and relate to God is influenced by things that are so embedded in us that we don't always see them or recognise them any more.

And then there are moments, moments when we have a chance to rethink, a moment when something happens that for a brief time reframes much of what we know and see and think, a moment when we have a chance to embrace fresh wisdom, new insights, a moment that some have called liminal space (a space of transition between one point in time and another). Liminal space can happen at some of the toughest times in our lives, but they can be moments when we have a chance to make decisions and choices that in ordinary times so much that is within us would stop us making. Those times when that voice in our head that says but I can't because is a little less loud.

Jesus obviously never used the word liminal space, but he did I believe have periods of his life and ministry where he was in that very place, in the desert before his ministry began, in the garden of Gethsemane when he made the decision to face his death. His disciples too were in what you could call a liminal place after his death. Shut up in that room, or sad and bereft on that walk to Emmaus from today's reading, everything they thought they

had known for the last three years was crashing around them, and yet it was that time which formed the amazing ministry which followed, ministry which we see starting to bloom in our Acts reading today.

Dare I suggest that for many of us lockdown from Coronavirus creates a liminal space. Many of the things we normally do, many of the commitments we normally have, many of the safety nets we normally rely on, are not here right now. It is different, and that is very discombobulating, but we may be able to use that place of discombobulation as a time to make changes, changes that we would normally feel too inhibited to make. We may be able to allow ourselves to be changed. I have heard many people comment on some of the positives of this time, and then that is followed by the phrase, I hope we don't just go back to how things were after all this. This is the time to capture those things, to voice them out and to commit ourselves to being different when this is all over.

Prayers

Let us pray to God,
who alone makes us dwell in safety:
For all who are affected by coronavirus,
through illness or isolation or anxiety,
that they may find relief and recovery:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.
For those who are guiding our nation at this
time,
and shaping national policies,
that they may make wise decisions:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,
that through their skill and insights
many will be restored to health:
Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.
For the vulnerable and the fearful,
for the gravely ill and the dying,
that they may know your comfort and peace:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.
We commend ourselves, and all for whom
we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.
Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Closing Blessing

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
wherever He may send you.
May He guide you through the wilderness,
protect you through the storm.
May He bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders He has shown you.
May He bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors.

(Northumbria Community)