

Swaythling Parish

Sunday 10 May

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Welcome

Below is a service sheet for you to use for this week's Sunday morning service. This is based on a service that is being broadcast as a video on Sunday morning through the YouTube channel. It will be available on YouTube from 10am on Sunday, (and afterwards). Please search for "Swaythling Parish" on YouTube to find and view it.

If do not have access to watch the YouTube video, we hope you will be able to use these words and join us too in spirit.

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

We come to worship during this difficult time with much on our minds and hearts. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the problems, and we need to restore our perspective by remembering that there are good things in our lives too, things that we can easily miss.

We spend a few moments thinking about them: the kindness of families, friends and strangers; for all who are putting their own lives at risk to

help others; for the times when we have been able to do something ourselves, perhaps a smile, a phone call or email, or some shopping.

For kindness we have received:

we thank you, Lord.

For those who have helped others:

we thank you, Lord.

For the chance to play our part in helping people through this time:

we thank you, Lord.

Ann Lewin

Hymn: New every morning

- 1 New every morning is the love
our wakening and uprising prove;
through sleep and darkness safely brought,
restored to life and power and thought.
- 2 New mercies, each returning day,
hover around us while we pray;
new perils past, new sins forgiven,
new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.
- 3 If on our daily course our mind
be set to hallow all we find,
new treasures still, of countless price,
God will provide for sacrifice.
- 4 Old friends, old scenes, will lovelier be,
As more of heaven in each we see;
Some softening gleam of love and prayer
Shall dawn on every cross and care.

5 The trivial round, the common task,
will furnish all we need to ask,
room to deny ourselves, a road
to bring us daily nearer God.

6 Only, O Lord, in thy dear love
fit us for perfect rest above;
and help us, this and every day,
to live more nearly as we pray.

John Keble (1792-1866)

The Confession

For all of us there will be things we have not gone right, but where we have got it wrong we don't need to be beaten by the sense of failure, we don't need to beat ourselves up either because God is a God of forgiveness and love, so Let us offer our sorry to God now, and imagine Gods loving arms receiving us as we pray.

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.
Christ 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.

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.

The Collect

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

Readings

Acts 7: 55-end

In a long address in the earlier part of this chapter, Stephen has told the story of Jesus life, death and resurrection, and accused his listeners of being as bad as those who had refused to listen to Jesus. As a result, he was martyred.

Read by Jacob and Samuel Dockree by in the video.

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he 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.

For the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

John 14:1-14

Jesus encourages the disciples to believe that he has shown them the true nature of God, and to find God in their own lives.

Read by Chris Castle in the video.

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

A Reflection from Ann Lewin

People who carve wood or stone sometimes talk about their work as revealing something that is already there in the material they are working with.

Paul, in one of his letters, writes of the Christians in Ephesus (Ephesians 2:10 in the Jerusalem Bible translation) that they are 'God's works of art', imagining God as a master craftsman who brings out what is best in us. That

caught my imagination – it was quite a revelation to think that I might be one of God’s works of art. Definitely a work in progress, I thought, not a finished product. But:

*God's work of art,
That's me?
Then beauty must lie
In the eye of the
Beholder.*

*I feel more like
One of those statues
Michelangelo left
Half emerging
From the marble block;
Full of potential,
On the verge of life,
But prisoned still
By circumstance and
Fear.*

*Yet part of me is free -
And you are still creating,
Bringing to life
The promise that is there.
Sometimes by
Hammer blows
Which jar my being,
Sometimes by
Tender strokes half felt
Which waken me to
Life.*

*Go on, Lord,
Love me into wholeness.
Set me free*

*To share with you
In your creative joy;
To laugh with you
At your delight
In me
Your work of art.*

*Revelation, in Watching for the Kingfisher
Ann Lewin. Published by Canterbury Press*

It’s a wonderful promise of a future when we will be changed into the people we are intended to be. A promise we need to take hold of now as we live through these very difficult times, when we may feel that we are on the end of some hefty hammer blows, rather than being shaped by tenderness. It is the same promise held out by the reading from John’s Gospel we heard earlier, words often read at funerals to give people hope that the journey we are all on leads to a fuller life. Christians are called to keep that hope alive, and to share it with people around, so that the whole of society can be changed into what it can really be, communities where everyone lives and works for the benefit of all.

It won’t be an easy transition, change never is, but transformation is what we are longing for. I’ve got a poster in my window which reads :

Let hope keep you joyful.

That’s my prayer not just for the people who pass my house, or live nearby, but for all of us. Let’s pray that we will keep hope alive, and that hope will keep us all joyful.

Prayers of Intercession

Written by Scott Canadas, and read by Scott in the video.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time, and shaping national policies, that they may make wise decisions: in such a challenging time.

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord we pray to you for the schools, colleges and universities of our diocese. For teachers and their students. For pupils, lecturers, and tutors, and all who work to support education in these places. Give comfort to those who are anxious about their future because of cancelled exams and new forms of online assessment, may there be academic integrity and may all that the future opens up for them reward their studies. Lord may education in this county be a source of liberation and opening up new doors for people. We pray especially for schools, their teachers, governors and chaplains, and our university chaplains and all who seek to witness to Christian truth in the places of education there. May your name be glorified, and people drawn to love you.

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray Lord for all who are sick, Lord bless those who are weak, anxious or isolated; may they know your love and comfort surrounding them; and bless all the work in the care and service of others through the health service and other caring professions. We bring to the Lord those whose lives have been affected by the

Coronavirus and all who find it difficult to trust in him; may he give them refreshment and hope, comfort, healing and inner serenity.

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for all who are homeless in the current situation of the pandemic. We pray especially for all the charities and organisations working hard to meet the needs of those who are at their most vulnerable at this time.

We pray for those who have died recently. We pray for those who have died in the hope of the resurrection and all those who have died in God's mercy. Lead them into the light of your face.

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

We bring to the Lord all those areas of our lives and our world where there are confusion and bewilderment; may He help us to go beyond our doubts and insecurity, and to experience the joy of His presence.

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

Ever present God, be with us in our isolation, be close to us in our distancing, be the healing in our sickness, the joy in our sadness, the light in our darkness, and wisdom in our confusion; be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar. Be with us in all that we do. for Jesus sake

Amen.

Hymn: Take this moment

- 1 Take this moment, sign and space;
Take my friends around;
Here among us make the place
Where your love is found.
- 2 Take the time to call my name,
Take the time to mend
Who I am and what I've been,
All I've failed to tend.
- 3 Take the tiredness of my days,
Take my past regret,
Letting your forgiveness touch
All I can't forget
- 4 Take the little child in me
Scared of growing old;
Help me here to find my worth
Made in God's own mould.
- 5 Take my talents, take my skills,
Take what's yet to be;
Let my life be yours, and yet
Let it still be me.

J Bell, G Maule ©1988 WGRG, Iona Community

Closing Blessing

Blessed are the poor

For theirs is the kingdom of God

Blessed are the hungry

For they shall be filled

Blessed are the meek,

For they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are the pure in heart,

For they shall see God.

Blessed are those who mourn,

For they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the merciful

For they shall be shown mercy.

Blessed are the peacemakers,

For they are the children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness and justice,

For great is their reward.

Words adapted from the Bible ©S Claiborne,
J Wilson- Hartgrove, E Okoro. 2001.

And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always.
Amen.

Thank you for joining in with us. If we can support you in any way, please get in touch. 023 8055 4231 peter.dockree@outlook.com

The Sunday Service Video will be on YouTube at 10am on Sunday. Please search for "Swaythling Parish" on YouTube to find and view it.

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