

Sunday Worship at home May 9th 2021 Easter 6

Opening Prayers:

Alleluia. Christ is Risen

He is Risen Indeed Alleluia

Faithfull one whose word is life, come with saving power to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives. For the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Invitation to confession:

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.

Let us rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Friend of sinners, you bring hope in our despair.

Lord have mercy.

Healer of the sick, you give strength in our weakness.

Christ have mercy.

Destroyer of evil, you bring life in our dying.

Lord have mercy.

May almighty God who sent his Son into the world to save us, bring us his pardon and peace, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Collect:

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to the 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 Gospel reading from 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.

Reflection on the Gospel:

We arrive in today's Gospel as Jesus is giving his last sermon to the disciples, preparing them for life without him, something they have yet to fully grasp. Jesus must have felt great sadness at the thought of leaving his friends, but he knew he was fulfilling his Father's will. His words to them show feeling and emotion – "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love!" What does it mean to abide? It's an old-fashioned word, not used today. It's more than togetherness or closeness, it means to live deep within, at the very heart of someone else. I was lucky enough to have a wonderful mother who I loved with all my heart. On my wedding day, as she left the house, the last things she did were to hug me, tell me she loved me and give me a new handkerchief to have in my bag, "just in case I needed it". All these years later, I still have the handkerchief. When I hold it and smell it, I am transported back to my wedding day and the mother I loved. It is a connection to her and a memory of who I am and where I came from. The handkerchief is not the thing that carries my mother's presence, it is the love that we shared that ran so deep that it is still as strong as it always was, and always will be. That, and more, is the love Jesus had for his disciples; it is the love God has for us; a love that goes deep within and never ends. An abiding love that sustains and nurtures throughout our lives and beyond. Amen

The Apostles' 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; he 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

Be still and pray:

Pray for the community of the church and village of which you are a part.

For families and friends as our nation slowly re-awakens from the darkness of Covid 19.

For those who are sick, ill or grieving at this time, name them in the silence.

For the Queen and her family, the Government making decisions on our behalf.

For those who have died recently and those who will die this day.

Keep us Lord under the shadow of your wings.

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, which art in heaven.....

The Blessing

May God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us victory over death, bless us and give us his peace. **Amen.**