

WORSHIP - 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER - 9 MAY 2021

*Today we have physical services in our churches at 10 am and we meet on Zoom at 11.30 - the link is on the website.
This is the Order of Service that is based on the Zoom service.*

Hymn - In our darkness light has shone - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Qv1XS~4kE>

Alleluia, Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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

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.

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God. Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

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.**

The Gloria – Mass of St Cedd, Peter Nardone - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lf1F6G0Iuas>

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

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us
he may raise us to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

New Testament reading - Acts 10.44-end - *is printed on the blue noticesheet*

Hymn - Come down, O love divine - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flvKDgktutI>

Gospel - John 15.9-17 - is printed on the blue noticesheet

Address - sermons from Peter and from Clive are on the website

Christian Aid video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6mkTXcrK8FE>

Prayers of Intercession, led by Mary Wallen

The thread running through the reading from Acts and the extract from John's gospel that Julie read for us this morning is quite simple. God's love, the Holy Spirit, is for everyone. We have been granted this great love so that we may love one another as much as God loves us. As we are told, this is greatest and most fundamental commandment of all. This is so enormous it could even be felt to be 'mind blowing'. It is made clear that this love is for everyone, not just for us, the privileged few within these walls today or in our warm and comfortable homes in the relatively safe suburb of Derby.

Christian Aid, as an organisation, bases their work on the premise that; 'Everyone is equal in the sight of God'. The aims of Christian Aid are: 'We stand together; for dignity; for equality; for justice. Working to create a world where everyone can live a full life free from poverty.'

I have been thinking, long and hard, about how I can show God's love in my daily life and I would like you to join me with this thinking in our prayers this morning. In particular thinking about the work of Christian Aid and how each one of us may be able to support their worldwide work.

After each section of the prayers I would like us to have a **short silence** for our own personal thoughts, followed by this response: I shall say "Lord Jesus fill me with the Holy Spirit so I may have the strength to love everybody, as You have commanded me to do." Your response will be '**Holy Spirit fill my heart today.**'

I ask that God will be with us all at this time of prayer, that we may think carefully and wisely and take something from our prayers that will bring us closer to fulfilling the commandment; 'Love one another as I have loved you'. **Amen.**

Firstly, thinking of the whole world. Lord, please enable help to reach the people of India, who are struggling so much with the COVID 19 pandemic. Their need for medical supplies and basic facilities is desperate, the suffering acute. How can we help them?

Lord, please enable peace to be agreed in those countries plagued by civil war; Myanmar, Israel and Palestine, Syria and a depressingly long list of others. Innocent people are being killed, they are living in appalling conditions and it must be almost impossible for them to feel any kind of hope for the future.

One in three people globally do not have access to safe drinking water. This is a staggering and shameful statistic. God's love is for all, including every one of these people suffering in so many ways. Maybe, we, personally, can help events in these distant countries by donating something to Christian Aid in the coming week.

Lord Jesus fill me with the Holy Spirit so I may have the strength to love everybody, as You have commanded me to do. **Holy Spirit fill my heart today.**

Now to think of our own country. Lord, we ask that our politicians, including those local politicians newly elected on Thursday, might have the integrity to act for the common good and that they will be guided by Christian principals and truly strive for a society where there is equality of opportunity for all. Lord, please help us all to work for the reduction of racial tension. Help everyone to think carefully about any judgemental behaviours and thoughts they may have so that love is given equally to all people. Think now, do I ever find myself making unfounded assumptions, giving people a 'label' for no real reason? Help me to see beyond the stereotypes that society has adopted and give love to all, as Jesus teaches us to do.

We ask that the church might continue to spread the love of God and have meaning for people in the 21st century. How can this happen? What can we do to help?

Lord Jesus fill me with the Holy Spirit so I may have the strength to love everybody, as You have commanded me to do. **Holy Spirit fill my heart today.**

In our parish. Lord, please help those in positions of influence in our churches, St Edmund's Allestree and St Matthew's, Darley Abbey that they may lead us to respond to the Your commandments and guide us all so that more local people may come to know of Your great love for them.

Lord, we ask for your blessing, love and support for those who are sick, especially any known to us. We ask that your continued love is poured onto them. Lord, please show Your love for those who grieve, particularly those we miss so much.

Lord Jesus fill me with the Holy Spirit so I may have the strength to love everybody, as You have commanded me to do. **Holy Spirit fill my heart today.**

Next we pray for our own families. Lord, we think now of our own families, the young, the old and everyone in between. They all have very different needs and different problems. Let us bring them before You now. Help us to give Your love to all our family members. Lord we ask for Your guidance so that we may; support rather than judge, love rather than doubt, understand rather than dismiss. Help us to be driven by Your love in all our relationships.

Lord Jesus fill me with the Holy Spirit so I may have the strength to love everybody, as You have commanded me to do. **Holy Spirit fill my heart today.**

Lastly we pray for ourselves. Lord, help us to look inwards and evaluate our lives. Help us to listen to Your word and find ways of loving everyone; our family, our friends, people known to us and people in the wider world we have never met. What can each of us do? How can we show love? A smile (difficult when wearing a face covering!), a kind word, by giving unwanted goods to a charity shop, praying for peace, praying that people all over the world may have dignity, equality and justice, supporting those who work to achieve this aim.

Lord Jesus fill me with the Holy Spirit so I may have the strength to love everybody, as You have commanded me to do. **Holy Spirit fill my heart today.**

We bring our prayers together as we pray the prayer that Jesus 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.**

Hymn - In a world where people walk in darkness - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDTO6RgrZj0>

In a world where people walk in darkness,
let us turn our faces to the light,
to the light of God revealed in Jesus,
to the daystar scattering our night.
*For the light is stronger than the darkness
and the day will overcome the night,
though the shadows linger all around us,
let us turn our faces to the light.*

In a world where suffering of the helpless
casts a shadow all along the way,
let us bear the cross of Christ with gladness
and proclaim the dawning of the day.

Let us light a candle in the darkness,
in the face of death a sign of life;
as a sign of hope where all seemed hopeless,
as a sign of peace in place of strife.

*For the light is stronger than the darkness
and the day will overcome the night,
though the shadows linger all around us,
let us turn our faces to the light.*

The Blessing

May God bless us with wonder at creation's glory.
May God bless us with fury at creation's spoiling.
May God bless us with courage at this critical hour.
And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
rest upon you and on all creation,
this day and for the future to come. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Final music - Two part invention number 13 in A minor, BWV 784, J.S. Bach
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttwo-QYqDNo>

Peter Barham, 6 May 2021 - revpeterbarham@btinternet.co.uk

Please can you email me if you are using these Order of Services
- they take a bit of time to put together, so I want to know they are being used!