

**St John's, Bourne End
worshipping together while we are apart**

Sunday 29th March 2020

I suggest that if there is more than one of you, you choose someone to read the words in normal print and all join in with the words in bold or if you are alone, you silently read the words in normal print and say the words in bold out loud. Try not to rush through the words but allow some time for God to speak to you and you to hear him.

Remember, although we may be physically apart, we are together in spirit as we worship God together for we are all part of God's family at St John's.

Rebecca

Gathering

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
**as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Praise the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

Pause to allow us to experience God's presence with us

Confession

God so loves the world that he gave his only Son, Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven and to bring us to eternal life.

Take a moment to bring to mind those things you wish to confess to our heavenly Father this morning?

**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.**

Listen to what the Bible says: 'If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.'
1 John 1.8-9

Collect

**Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Now say these verses from Psalm 117

**Praise the Lord, all you nations
Extol him, all you peoples.
For great is his love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord
endures forever
Praise the Lord.**

Psalm 117.1-2

Pause for thought

Today we are completing our series on Who are we? who God says we are and what it means. Reflect on what things have encouraged you, challenged you or changed you through this series so far.

Philippians 2.1-11

John 13.1-17

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Who are we? We are servants: Rebecca Fardell

Praise

Why not either read the words to 'The Servant King' by Graham Kendrick or listen to it on the link on the website whilst you ask God who he is calling you to serve?

From heaven you came helpless babe
Entered our world, your glory veiled
Not to be served but to serve
And give Your life that we might live

*This is our God, The Servant King
He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to The Servant King*

There in the garden of tears
My heavy load he chose to bear
His heart with sorrow was torn
'Yet not My will but Yours, ' He said

Readings

Come see His hands and His feet
The scars that speak of sacrifice
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered

So let us learn how to serve
And in our lives enthrone Him
Each other's needs to prefer
For it is Christ we're serving

Talk

*Songwriters: Chris Llewellyn / Graham Kendrick / Gareth Gilkeson
The Servant King lyrics © Thank You Music Ltd., Make Way Music*

Pause to reflect

Let us 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.**

Creed

We bring all our prayers together by praying the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Closing prayer

Why not picture the people from St John's who you would normally see on a Sunday and pray this blessing for all of your church family?

**In darkness and in light, in trouble and in joy,
help us heavenly Father, to trust your love,
to serve your purpose and to praise your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Prayers

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5.7

Let's spend some time praying. You might like to include some or all of these things in your prayers:

- Our leaders, scientists, health workers and all working to help us navigate the coronavirus crisis
- Our neighbours and community as they face the effects of the crisis
- Our church family: may we grow nearer to God and to one another during this crisis
- Our family and ourselves

and may...

The LORD bless us and keep us;

the LORD make his face shine on us and be gracious to us;

the LORD turn his face towards us and give us peace. Amen.

Based on Numbers 6.24-26

Coffee

Now, why not make yourself a cup of tea or coffee and then ring someone from St John's for a chat?