**St John’s, Bourne End**

**worshipping together while we are apart**

**Sunday 26th April 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***

God in Christ has revealed his glory.  
**Come let us worship.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting

**the Lord’s name is greatly to be praised.**

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.

**O praise the name of the Lord!**

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.**

*Pause to allow us to experience God’s presence with us*

***Confession***

Jesus Christ, risen master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

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

We have lived by our own strength,

and not by the power of your resurrection.

In your mercy, forgive us.

**Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,

as faithless and not believing.

In your mercy, forgive us.

**Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived for this world alone,

and doubted our home in heaven.

In your mercy, forgive us.

**Lord, hear us and help us.**

May the God of love and power

forgive us and free us from our sins,

heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,

and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***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. Amen.**

***Praise***

*Now say these verses from Zephaniah 3*

**Sing, Daughter Zion;**

**shout aloud, Israel!**

**Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,**

**Daughter Jerusalem!**

**The Lord your God is with you,**

**the Mighty Warrior who saves.**

**He will take great delight in you;**

**in his love he will no longer rebuke you,**

**but will rejoice over you with singing.**

Zephaniah 3.14,17

***Pause for thought***

Which are you favourite parts of the Bible? Which are your least favourite?

***Readings***

Acts 2.14a, 36-41

Luke 24.13-35

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

***Talk***

**The Road to Emmaus: Rebecca Fardell**

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*Supper at Emmaus by Caravaggio*

***Pause to reflect***

How might you make space to meet with Jesus in the days ahead?

***Creed***

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.**

**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
* For all who mourn
* Our church family: may we grow nearer to God and to one another
* Our family and ourselves

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 your church family?*

**Almighty God,**

**we thank you for the gift of your holy word.**

**May it be a lantern to our feet,**

**a light to our paths,**

**and a strength to our lives.**

**Take us and use us**

**to love and serve**

**in the power of the Holy Spirit**

**and in the name of your Son,**

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**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?*