**St John’s, Bourne End**

**worshipping together while we are apart**

**Sunday 3rd May 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***

As we come into God’s presence, we are aware that not everything we have said, thought and done this week has been glorifying to him. We are also aware that there is much pain and brokenness in the world because of sin. Take a moment to bring to mind those things you wish to confess to our heavenly Father this morning:

*Pause*

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:

fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:

fill us with your Spirit.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:

fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May the Father of all mercies

cleanse us from our sins,

and restore us in his image

to the praise and glory of his name,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**For ‘you were like sheep going astray,’ but now you have returned to the**

**Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.**

1 Peter 2.25

As forgiven people, we pray the words of today’s collect

**Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father’s sheep:**

**teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command,**

**that all your people may be gathered into one flock,**

**to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*Today we are going to be thinking about what it means for us to be the sheep and Jesus to be the Shepherd so we say Psalm 23*

**The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.**

**He makes me lie down in green pastures,**

**he leads me beside quiet waters,**

**he refreshes my soul.**

**He guides me along the right paths**

**for his name’s sake.**

**Even though I walk**

**through the darkest valley,**

**I will fear no evil,**

**for you are with me;**

**your rod and your staff,**

**they comfort me.**

**You prepare a table before me**

**in the presence of my enemies.**

**You anoint my head with oil;**

**my cup overflows.**

**Surely your goodness and love will follow me**

**all the days of my life,**

**and I will dwell in the house of the Lord**

**for ever.**

Psalm 23

***Pause for thought***

Jesus identified his sheep as being those who hear his voice. In what ways do you hear Jesus' voice? Does his voice get drowned out by other voices? What things distract you from listening for him?

In the silence ask Jesus to help you be more attentive to his voice, to hear his call. What does it mean for you to hear Jesus' call and follow him?

***Readings***

Acts 2.42-end

John 10.1-10

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

***Talk***

**Revd Hilary Kemp**

***Pause to reflect***

Let’s spend a moment to listen to what the good shepherd is saying to us this morning.

In the silence let’s ask Jesus to help us be more attentive to his voice, to hear his call.

Let’s ask God to show us what he is calling us to in this season.

And let’s ask the Holy Spirit to help us respond to his call?

***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**

*We are using Psalm 23 to help us pray today:*

**The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing** we give thanks for all that God has given us and for all the blessings

of the past week

**He guides me along the right paths** we pray for those who need God’s guidance including our leaders

and those working to help us in the covonavirus crisis

**Even though I walk through the darkest valley**

we pray for the sick, the suffering and those who mourn

**Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life** we pray for the week ahead and ask for eyes to see where God is at

work and how we might share God’s love with others

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?*