**St John’s, Bourne End**

**worshipping together while we are apart**

**Sunday 12th July 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***

Let’s still our hearts and minds as we seek to worship God this morning.

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

Open us up, God:

**for all you have for us today.**

Open our eyes, God:

**to see you reflected in every human face.**

Open our hearts, God:

**to know your love for us, vast as the ocean.**

Open our ears, God:

**to hear the whisper of your Spirit and the wisdom of your word.**

Open our hands, God:

**this is your ministry, your kingdom, your power, your glory.**

Open our lips, God:

**that our mouths may sing out your praise.**

***Confession***

Let’s take a moment to bring to mind those things we wish to confess and say sorry to God for 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 God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins ,

and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

As forgiven people, we say together:

***Collect***

As forgiven people, we pray the words of the collect

**Almighty God,**

**send down upon your Church**

**the riches of your Spirit,**

**and kindle in all who minister the gospel**

**your countless gifts of grace;**

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

***Praise***

This morning we continue our ‘A Little Bible’ sermon series on the Psalms by thinking about Psalms of Praise. We are also going to share some of our favourite Psalms. So, let’s continue to praise God together in the words of Psalm 1 which is our new curate Rachel’s favourite Psalm.

**Blessed is the one**

 **who does not walk in step with the wicked**

**or stand in the way that sinners take**

 **or sit in the company of mockers,**

**but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,**

 **and who meditates on his law day and night.**

**That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,**

 **which yields its fruit in season**

**and whose leaf does not wither –**

 **whatever they do prospers.**

**Not so the wicked!**

 **They are like chaff**

 **that the wind blows away.**

**Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,**

 **nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.**

**For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,**

 **but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.**

Psalm 1

***Pause for thought***

What is your favourite Psalm? Why is it special to you?

***Readings***

1 Chronicles 16.23-34

Psalm 145

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

***Talk***

‘A Little Bible’: Psalms of Praise by Andrew Wilcock

***Pause to reflect***

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;

his greatness no one can fathom. (Psalm 145.3)

Spend some time thinking about what God is saying to you through Psalm 145. What do you want to praise God for today?

***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**

*Do add your own prayers in the …*

Lord God, through your grace we are your people:

through your Son you have redeemed us;

in your Spirit you have made us as your own.

We pray for … (*new Christians, the Church*)

Make our hearts respond to your love.

Lord, receive our praise

**and hear our prayer.**

We pray for … (*the world, society, the local community*)

Make our lives bear witness to your glory in the world.

Lord, receive our praise

**and hear our prayer.**

We pray for … (*people in need, Christian service*)

Make our wills eager to obey, and our hands ready to heal.

Lord, receive our praise

**and hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for …

Make our voices one with all your people

in heaven and on earth.

Lord of life,

**hear our prayer,**

**and make us one in heart and mind**

**to serve you with joy for ever.**

**Amen.**

We bring our prayers together with the words 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?*

**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

We go into the world to walk in God’s light

to rejoice in God’s love and to reflect God’s glory

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**In the name of Christ, Amen.**

***Coffee***

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