**St John’s, Bourne End**

**worshipping together while we are apart**

**Sunday 19th 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***

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.

**Let us recognize his presence with us.**

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

As God’s people we have gathered:

let us worship him together.

***Praise***

Let’s continue to praise God together in the words of Psalm 100 which is Ruth Calderwood’s favourite Psalm.

**Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.**

**Worship the Lord with gladness,**

**come before him with joyful songs.**

**Know that the Lord is God.**

**It is he who made us, and we are his,**

**we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving**

**and his courts with praise,**

**give thanks to him and praise his name.**

**For the Lord is good and his love endures forever,**

**his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

Psalm 100

***Confession***

As we think of God’s goodness, we are aware that we are not always good and loving. As we think of God’s faithfulness, we are aware that we are not always faithful. Let’s take a moment to bring to mind those things we have said and thought and done that we wish to confess to our loving heavenly Father this morning:

*Pause*

**Most merciful God,**

**Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**we confess that we have sinned**

**in thought, word and deed.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**In your mercy**

**forgive what we have been,**

**help us to amend what we are,**

**and direct what we shall be;**

**that we may do justly,**

**love mercy,**

**and walk humbly with you, our God.**

**Amen.**

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.**

***Collect***

As forgiven people, we pray the words of the collect

**Creator God,  
you made us all in your image:**

**may we discern you in all that we see,**

**and serve you in all that we do;**

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

***Pause for thought***

Today we are thinking about Psalms of Thanks. What are you thankful to God for today?

***Readings***

Colossians 3.15-17

Psalm 107

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

***Talk***

‘A Little Bible’: Psalms of Thanks by Rebecca Fardell

***Pause to reflect***

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his love endures forever.

(Psalm 107.1)

Spend some time thinking about what God is saying to you through Psalm 107. How has God shown you his goodness and enduring love? Who is he asking you to share that goodness and love with?

***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?*