**St John’s, Bourne End**

**worshipping together while we are apart**

**Sunday 26th 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 121 which is Patrick Craig’s favourite Psalm.

I lift up my eyes to the mountains –  
where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip –  
he who watches over you will not slumber;  
indeed, he who watches over Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord watches over you –  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;  
the sun will not harm you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all harm –  
he will watch over your life;

the Lord will watch over your coming and going  
both now and for evermore.

Psalm 121

***Confession***

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

**Lord God, we have sinned against you;**

**we have done evil in your sight.**

**We are sorry and repent.**

**Have mercy on us according to your love.**

**Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.**

**Renew a right spirit within us**

**and restore us to the joy of your salvation,**

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

May almighty God,

who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,

bring us his pardon and peace, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

***Collect***

As forgiven people, we pray the words of the collect

**Generous God,**

**you give us gifts and make them grow:**

**though our faith is small as mustard seed,**

**make it grow to your glory**

**and the flourishing of your kingdom;**

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

***Pause for thought***

We are continuing our sermon series this morning on The Psalms and Hilary will be speaking to us on the theme of Psalms of Lament. How easy do we find it to lament? Do we find it easy or challenging to share our hurt and pains with God?

***Readings***

1 John 1.5-2.2

Psalm 142

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

***Talk***

‘A Little Bible’: Psalms of Lament by Hilary Kemp

***Pause to reflect***

Let’s cry out to God about the things we feel desperate about, being really honest about our feelings.

As we cry out to God, let’s thank the Spirit for joining us in wordless groans, bringing our concerns to our Father.

Let’s ask Jesus to comfort all who are weary, feeling under attack, lonely or imprisoned.

Let’s ask the Spirit to show us how we can be Jesus’ hands, feet or eyes, how we can be his representative in any of these situations.

***Praise***

**Benedictus (Song of Zechariah in Luke 1.68-79*)***

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,

who has come to his people and set them free.

**He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,**

**born of the house of his servant David.**

Through his holy prophets God promised of old

to save us from our enemies,

from the hands of all that hate us,

**To show mercy to our ancestors,**

**and to remember his holy covenant.**

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**Free to worship him without fear,**

**holy and righteous in his sight**

**all the days of our life.**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

**To give his people knowledge of salvation**

**by the forgiveness of all their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,**

**and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**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.**

***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?*