**St John’s, Bourne End**

**worshipping together while we are apart**

**Sunday 5th 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*

From different lives:

**We come to worship.**

From good weeks and bad weeks:

**We come to worship.**

Bringing great times and painful memories:

**We come to worship.**

Needing healing, needing peace:

**We come to worship.**

With hope in our hearts:

**We come to worship.**

To the Almighty God:

**We come to worship.**

To the King of Kings:

**We come to worship.**

Together, although we are apart:

**We come to worship.**

***Confession***

As we draw near to God in worship, we are aware that too often we fail to live in a way that glorifies God. Remembering what Andrew said to us last week about being members of Team Jesus and how that affects our responses to inequalities in our world, let’s take a moment to bring to mind those things we wish to confess to God this morning:

*Pause*

You made us to be one family,

yet we have divided humanity.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

You were born a Jew to reconcile all people,

yet we have brought disharmony amongst races.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

You rejoice in our differences,

yet we make them a cause of enmity.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May the Father forgive us

by the death of his Son

and strengthen us

to live in the power of the Spirit

all our days. **Amen.**

***Collect***

As forgiven people, we pray the words of the collect

**Gracious Father,**

**by the obedience of Jesus**

**you brought salvation to our wayward world:**

**draw us into harmony with your will,**

**that we may find all things restored in him.**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

***Praise***

This morning we begin our ‘A Little Bible’ sermon series on the Psalms. In the Psalms we discover who God is, who we are and what it means to live as the people of God. Let’s continue to praise God together in these words from Psalm 34.

**I will bless the LORD at all times;**

**his praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

**My soul makes its boast in the LORD;**

**let the humble hear and be glad.**

**O magnify the LORD with me,**

**and let us exalt his name together.**

**I sought the LORD, and he answered me,**

**and delivered me from all my fears.**

**Look to him, and be radiant;**

**so your faces shall never be ashamed.**

**This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD,**

**and was saved from every trouble.**

**The angel of the LORD encamps**

**around those who fear him, and delivers them.**

**O taste and see that the LORD is good;**

**happy are those who take refuge in him.**

Psalm 34.1-8

***Pause for thought***

Which are your favourite characters (other than Jesus!) and stories in the Bible? What do they tell you about God?

***Readings***

Proverbs 30.1-6

Psalm 119.81-112

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

***Talk***

‘A Little Bible’: Summer with the Psalms An Introduction by Rebecca Fardell

***Pause to reflect***

Spend some time thinking about what God is saying to you through our Bible reading from Psalm 119 and what Rebecca has said to us. How do the Psalms speak to you about who God is, who we are and our relationship with God?

***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**

As we come to our time of prayer, let’s spend a moment being still, allowing God to bring to mind those people and situations that need our prayer today. Name those things that come to mind in the pauses (…) during the prayers, out loud or in the silence of your heart.

Lord, as you have called us to fulfil your purpose, work in us and through us to do your will.

Make us the people you want us to be. Guide us to do what you would have us do.

We pray for all those who don’t know you and ask that you would give us opportunities to share your love with some of them this week…

Have mercy on all who are suffering hardship or persecution, all who are in danger.

Strengthen those who seek to bring in your kingdom by striving for peace, justice and liberty…

We pray for all who are sick, for those losing agility or mobility, and for all the doctors, nurses and carers who look after them and comfort them. We pray for the scientists and researchers who are working towards a vaccine for Covid-19, give them wisdom and inspiration…

We give pray for all who mourn. Comfort them in their grief and surround them with your love...

Looking at the week ahead, we pray for those we will meet and the things we will do, may God’s word light our path…

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?*