**St John’s, Bourne End**

**worshipping together while we are apart**

**Sunday 16th August 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 stand before the throne of God

with countless crowds

from every nation and race, tribe and language.

**Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour, power and might**

**to our God for ever and ever.**

*Silence is kept*

***Confession***

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer,

this is your world and we are your people:

come among us and save us.

We have wilfully misused your gifts of creation;

Lord, be merciful:

**forgive us our sin.**

We have seen the ill-treatment of others

and have not gone to their aid;

Lord, be merciful:

**forgive us our sin.**

We have condoned evil and dishonesty

and failed to strive for justice;

Lord, be merciful:

**forgive us our sin.**

We have heard the good news of Christ,

but have failed to share it with others;

Lord, be merciful:

**forgive us our sin**

We have not loved you with all our hear,

nor our neighbours as ourselves;

Lord, be merciful:

**forgive us our sin.**

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour

forgive *us* *our* sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

***Thanksgiving***

We thank you, O God,

for you are gracious.

You have loved us from the beginning of time

and you remember us in times of trouble and of joy.

**Your mercy endures for ever**

We thank you, O God,

for you came to us in Jesus Christ,

who has redeemed the world

and saves us from our sins.

**Your mercy endures for ever**

We thank you, O God,

for you have sent your Holy Spirit,

who comforts us and leads us into all truth.

**Your mercy endures for ever.**

**Amen**

***Collect***

**Lord of heaven and earth,**

**as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer,**

**give us patience and courage never to lose hope,**

**but always to bring our prayers before you;**

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

***Pause for thought***

We are continuing our Summer with the Psalms this morning and Hilary will be speaking to us on the theme of Psalms of Wisdom. Psalm 34 tells us that wisdom and praise are intimately connected. We have just been singing about glorifying God which means praising him, that is how we lift his name high. What are you thanking God for today?

***Readings***

**Psalm 34**

I will extol the Lord at all times;
    his praise will always be on my lips.

I will glory in the Lord;
    let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
Glorify the Lord with me:
    let us exalt his name together.

I sought the Lord, and he answered me;
    he delivered me from all my fears.
Those who look to him are radiant;
    their faces are never covered with shame.
This poor man called, and the Lord heard him;
    he saved him out of all his troubles.
The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him,
    and he delivers them.

Taste and see that the Lord is good;
    blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.
Fear the Lord, you his holy people,
    for those who fear him lack nothing.
The lions may grow weak and hungry,
    but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.
Come, my children, listen to me;
    I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
Whoever of you loves life
    and desires to see many good days,
keep your tongue from evil
    and your lips from telling lies.
Turn from evil and do good;
    seek peace and pursue it.

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
    and his ears are attentive to their cry;
but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
    to blot out their name from the earth.

The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;
    he delivers them from all their troubles.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted
    and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

The righteous person may have many troubles,
    but the Lord delivers him from them all;
he protects all his bones,
    not one of them will be broken.

Evil will slay the wicked;
    the foes of the righteous will be condemned.
The Lord will rescue his servants;
    no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

**Acts 2.42-47**

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

***Talk***

*A Little Bible: Psalms of Wisdom*

***Pause for thought***

What is God saying to you through the readings and Hilary’s words?

***Praise***

Rejoice in the Lord always

**and again I say, ‘Rejoice’.**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,

**there is no end to his greatness.**

One generation shall praise your works to another

**and shall declare your power.**

All your works praise you, Lord,

**and your faithful servants bless you.**

They make known the glory of your kingdom

**and speak of your power.**

My mouth shall speak of the praise of the Lord:

**let all the flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.**

***Prayers***

We use Psalm 34 to guide our prayers:

Glorify the Lord with me:
    let us exalt his name together. (v1)

* tell God so of the things you are thankful for today

I sought the Lord, and he answered me;
    he delivered me from all my fears. (v4)

* pray for those who are afraid

Taste and see that the Lord is good;
    blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. (v8)

* pray for those you know who do not yet follow Jesus

The Lord will rescue his servants;
    no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned. (v22)

* pray for those who are in need of God’s special help today

We gather our prayers together in the words 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.**

*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

***Dismissal***

We go into the world to walk in God’s light, to rejoice in God’s love and to reflect God’s glory.

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

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