**St John’s, Bourne End**

**worshipping together while we are apart**

**Sunday 9th 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 meet in the presence of God

**Who knows our needs, hears our cries**

**feels our pain and heals our wounds**

Lord, speak to us

**that we may hear your word.**

Move among us

**that we may behold your glory.**

Receive our prayers

**that we may learn to trust you.**

**Amen.**

***Confession***

If you kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness. Let’s take a moment to think of the things we need to confess to God this morning, things we have done and things we have not done.

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 almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring us his pardon and peace, now and for ever. **Amen.**

***Thanksgiving***

Let us give thanks to God.

For the love of our Father, the maker of all,

the giver of all good things,

let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

For Jesus Christ our Saviour,

who lived and worked among us,

let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

For his suffering and death on the cross

and his resurrection to new life,

let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

For his rule over all things

and his presence in the world,

let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

For the Holy Spirit, the giver of life,

who teaches and guides us,

let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

For the grace of the Spirit

in the work of the Church

and the life of the world,

let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***Collect***

**Gracious Father, revive your Church in our day,**

**and make her holy, strong and faithful,**

**for your glory’s sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***Pause for thought***

Today we are continuing our Summer with the Psalms by thinking about Psalms of Trust. How do you trust the Lord? Do you find it easy or not? Are there some things it is harder to trust God about?

***Readings***

**Psalm 91**

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.’

Surely he will save you
from the fowler’s snare
and from the deadly pestilence.
He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,

nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.
A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.
You will only observe with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.

If you say, ‘The Lord is my refuge,’
and you make the Most High your dwelling,
no harm will overtake you,
no disaster will come near your tent.
For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;
they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
You will tread on the lion and the cobra;
 you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

‘Because he loves me,’ says the Lord, ‘I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.
He will call on me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honour him.
With long life I will satisfy him

and show him my salvation.’

**Romans 8.31-39**

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

‘For your sake we face death all day long;
    we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

***Talk***

*A Little Bible: Psalms of Trust by Revd Rebecca Fardell*

***Pause to reflect***

We thank God that we can trust him, that he is our refuge and our fortress. We ask Jesus to increase our trust in him so that we may come to know and love him more and become more like him. We ask the Spirit for help to trust in God on easy days and on difficult days, for help to truly dwell in him.

***Praise***

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
**He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.**He guides me along the right paths
for his name’s sake.
**Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,**for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

**You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.**You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
**Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,**and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
for ever.

**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***

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, aloud or in silence.

Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, those who rest in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord: ‘my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’ Lord, when we hear things that we don’t understand, when we see things that we don’t understand, when we feel things that we don’t understand, when we think things that we don’t fully understand, help us to trust you.

We ask you to be close to all who are suffering hardship or persecution, all who are in danger. We pray for all affected by the explosion in Beirut this week. Give wisdom and authority to those who are working towards peace and justice across the world.

Comfort those who are sick or hurting and those who mourn. Give strength to the doctors, nurses and carers who look after them. Give wisdom and inspiration to the scientists and researchers who are working towards a vaccine for Covid-19.

Lord, teach us the love that stays faithful for the long haul, the persistence that will not give up, and the grace to trust you, even when we cannot see results.

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.**

***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?*