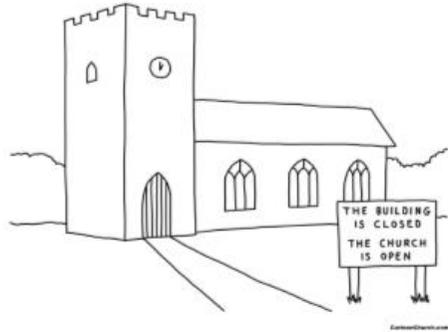


**The Parish Churches of Elstead, Thursley,
Shackleford and Peper Harow
Sunday 29th March 2020
Passion Sunday**



Revd Hannah writes:

As I wander around the garden enjoying the sunshine, it is hard to believe that all is not right in the world. However, over the last week our lives have changed beyond recognition. We are discouraged from going out; we are encouraged to keep our distance from one another and we are having to find new ways to work and communicate. These changes in our lives can make us feel hopeless, depressed, fearful and anxious. The psalm for this Sunday is Psalm 130, which I think is very apt for the situation we find ourselves in. I hope it offers you some comfort, "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!" and "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; For with the Lord there is steadfast love." Amidst all the challenges, we are rediscovering our humanity and what it means to help one another. I know in our own communities people are reaching out to help others in need.

Even the smallest acts of generosity can make an impression. This week, our daughter Rachael went to pick up her regular medication and she asked the pharmacist if she could buy some extra paracetamol which is usually prescribed for me. The pharmacist told her unfortunately she could not have an extra box at this time. As Rachael got into her car, the man who had been standing in the queue behind her, tapped on her car window and handed her another box of paracetamol and said, "these are for your mum." This small act of kindness made a big impression. I wonder, how and who we can help this week? Where and to whom can we demonstrate God's steadfast love?

Sunday 29th March readings -

First Reading Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Lord shows Ezekiel a valley of dry bones, commanding the prophet to speak forth God's life. As an enfolded and breathing multitude arises, God declares an intention to renew and restore the people.

Second Reading Romans 8:6-11

Paul exhorts his readers to focus on the Spirit that dwells in them, reminding them that the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to their mortal bodies.

Gospel John 11:1-45

At Bethany, Jesus raises his friend Lazarus from the dead, foreshadowing his own death and emergence from the tomb. Many of those who witness this miracle believe in Jesus.

Collect

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Using Technology:

Many churches are using ZOOM to gather together so that they can pray and worship. You need to sign up through the link <https://zoom.us/signup> . We will try this in the next few weeks.

I have also set up a YouTube channel and if you follow the link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4f9VwGYIzNyd90CDjtF8eQ?view_as=subscriber

You will see me leading the service of the word on the following pages

Everyday Faith Daily Reflections.

The Church of England is publishing Daily Reflections and Prayer to help us find and follow God in our daily lives. To sign up go to: www.churchofengland.org/everydayfaith

Prayer Pointers

Our concerns:

We pray for our family, friends and neighbours who are feeling worried, isolated or alone. We pray they will know God's peace.

Christians far and wide :

Pray for all members of the General Synod, especially those clergy and laity representing our own diocese, and keep them steadfast in faith and united in love

Anglican Cycle of Prayer

Season of Prayer and Repentance

Today, the fifth Sunday in Lent, is the focus of the Primates' Task Group's call for a period of prayer and repentance in the Anglican Communion.

Our nation and our world:

Pray for our National leaders who are leading us through the present crisis.

Pray for the NHS and all the medical staff caring for people affected by COVID –19

Pray that nations will work together to find a vaccine

Climate concerns across the world.

Our neighbours:

All lay people who help to conduct worship at the U.R.C. and St James'. Real joy and commitment in our worship.

All who live in Pitch Place, Thursley; Charles Hill, Elstead; Mark Way, Lower Eashing, New Pond Rd, Milford Road, Portsmouth Rd, Peper Harow Lane Butterflies Nursery School.

Vision and Spiritual Values in planning for the future.

Those whose plans, weddings, baptisms have been disrupted by COVID 19

For those who are unwell, including Peter Ball, Pru Jones, Eric Lawrence, Susie, Tom Spencer.

+ **In Loving Memory:** Peggy Stokes, Brian Francis, Kathleen Tracy, Lady Pamela Gordon, Michael Palmer

A Celtic Prayer

God to enfold me, God to surround me,
God in my speaking, God in my thinking,
God in my sleeping, God in my waking,
God in my watching, God in my hoping,
God in my life, God in my lips,
God in my soul, God in my heart,
God in my sufficing, God in my slumber,
God in mine ever-living soul,
God in my eternity.

Amen

Keeping in touch

A reminder that in accordance with the Archbishops' instruction, public worship is suspended until further notice. We will keep you informed of any further developments.

As we gradually come to terms with the constraints of our situation, a reminder of the opportunities which we already have

* There is a weekly service on Radio 4 on Sundays at 8.15am

* And a daily service on Radio 4 Long wave at 9.45am

* The Diocese of Guildford has information about what is going on, and not only about the virus! <https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk>

* The Church of England website includes access to services, under the heading of Prayer and Worship. <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>

An encouragement to all of us to keep in contact and watch out for those friends and neighbours who may be in need of help.

Sunday Service at home

Hello and welcome to our gathering together. We are church wherever we worship, on our own or in community. We are a church which temporarily can no longer worship within a building, but now in many, connecting in different ways to our community in service to our neighbours.

You may like to have to hand a **Bible**, a **candle** to light; some **music** for reflection or praise. If you are worshipping with someone else in your household, you might like to take it in turns to read and join together for the bold type. Otherwise read silently or aloud depending with what you feel most comfortable.

The Gathering

Though physically apart, we meet in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, you are in this place, fill us with your power, cover us with your peace and show us your presence.

A time to praise God and give thanks

The Bible reminds us that creation itself teaches us about God and helps us to praise him. Look out of the window or go outside and reflect on this verse.

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. (Psalm 19:1)

Spend time giving thanks to God. Even in the most difficult times there are things for which we can give thanks.

A time to confess

Reflect on the day and on your relationships. - What good things have come from God today? - Where have I fallen short? - What might I do tomorrow?

Christ came in humility to share our lives: forgive our pride. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ came with good news for all people: forgive our silence. Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Christ came in love to a world of suffering: forgive our self-centredness. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Readings and reflections

Spend some time with the readings and reflection for the day (see Pew sheet which changes each Sunday)

Statement of faith

We believe in God our Father from whom every family in heaven and 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 and trust in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers

Prayers are said, followed by our Lord's prayer:

Let us pray to God, who alone makes us dwell in safety:

For all who are affected by coronavirus, through illness or isolation or anxiety, that they may find relief and recovery:

Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those who are guiding our nation at this time, and shaping national policies,

that they may make wise decisions: Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers, that through their skill and insights many will be restored to health: Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful, for the gravely ill and the dying, that they may know your comfort and peace: Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

**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.**

Spiritual Communion

If you would like to say prayers to join in with a spiritual communion, then this is the time. The prayers below offer Christians an opportunity to give thanks for their communion with him, particularly at times when they would ordinarily be present at the Eucharist.

If you would prefer – move straight to the final dismissal and blessing.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.

O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. **Amen.**
(after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester)

**Lord, in these days of mercy, make us quiet and prayerful;
in these days of challenge, make us stronger in you;
in these days of emptiness, take possession of us;
in these days of waiting, open our hearts to the mystery of your cross.**
(Angela Ashwin)

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants, give you most humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness.

We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth your praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Dismissal and blessing

Though many, we form one body in Christ. **We belong to one another.**

By God's grace we have different gifts. **We will use them in faith.**

Rejoice in hope, stand firm in trouble, be constant in prayer. **Filled with his Spirit we will serve the Lord.**

**The almighty and merciful Lord,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless us and keep us.
Amen.**

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, material from which is included in this service, is copyright The Archbishops' Council 2000. This service includes prayers from the Iona Community, WGRG Iona Morning Liturgy from the Wild Goose Worship Group, 'A Wee Worship Book' 4th incarnation, 1999

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