

## PRAYING LIKE JESUS

### “Try Praying”

Do you have friends, neighbours or family members who would like to try praying but don't know how to start? You can pick up a “Try Praying” booklet - a seven day journey into prayer - from a box on the fence near the gate into St Mary's churchyard. If they are online, please point them to [trypraying.co.uk](http://trypraying.co.uk)

### “Lectio 365”

An excellent app to help us read the Bible and pray daily. Find out more here: <https://www.24-7prayer.com/dailydevotional>

### “7.14 PRAYER”: Sign up now!

2 Chronicles 7.14 exhorts us to pray for our land in times of crisis. In the week leading up to Pentecost Sunday we will pray for 7 days and 14 hours each day (7am to 9pm). You can sign up to pray for one hour and there will be resources with suggestions for prayer during that hour. Sign up at [tinyurl.com/714prayer](http://tinyurl.com/714prayer) or call our church office. at the usual opening hours to sign up.



In your prayers this week, please remember anyone known to us who is suffering the pain of bereavement at this time – especially the families of **Sue Fletcher, Marian Gollop, Diane Scanlon, Frances Jessup and Norman Francis** (Norman and Jo were members of St Mary's for many years).

email: [office@denhamparish.church](mailto:office@denhamparish.church)

phone: 01895 832771



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

*(This is a new national phone line provided by the Church of England)*

### A SERVICE ON YOUTUBE!

**Sunday Worship** at 10.30am on Youtube, followed by 'Virtual Coffee' at 11.15am: [tinyurl.com/youtube-denham](http://tinyurl.com/youtube-denham)

### A SERVICE ON YOUR TELEPHONE!

Dial **01895 714013** to listen to a weekly service from Denham Parish Church. Do give it a try!

### A NEW FOOD BANK

Our local community support group have just set up a food bank, operating from the May Coles Room of the Village Memorial Hall in Denham Village. They are taking donations at the Village Hall on Mondays 9-11 and Thursdays 2-4 or any time to 17 Ashcroft Drive.



## PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet

10<sup>th</sup> May 2020

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

**Welcome to this new-style Parousia!** All Church of England buildings remain closed. But the life of our church is not being put on hold and God remains active in his world! This news and service sheet is one way of keeping in touch and worshipping together. You can download it from our website or ask for a paper version to be sent to you. The inside pages provide you with a simple service so you can worship at home. Please check our website or Facebook page on a regular basis and do contact our church office if we can help in any way.

“Don't let trouble overwhelm you” by Ian Jennings

Our Gospel reading begins with Jesus offering these reassuring words, “Let not your heart be troubled, trust in God always, trust also in me.” Jesus was not saying, “Don't worry there is no trouble to be concerned with.” He was really saying, “Don't let trouble overwhelm you; don't let anxiety defeat you. Fix your trust firmly in me.” He was teaching his disciples, and that includes us, that we can live with hearts that are free from trouble even in a troubled world. How we need to grasp that today. We need to unclench our hearts and open up to the glorious truth of resurrection so that we can be sign post of hope to others in these troubled times.

Jesus does not just supply the answer to our questions and provide the solution to our problems. At the deepest level he becomes the answer to our questions and the solution to our problems when we put our trust wholly in him because he is the resurrection and the life. This is a passage of scripture in which he clearly points to himself not merely as a signpost but as the one to whom all the signposts have been pointing. “I am the Way the Truth and the Life.” Every religious leader has said, “There is the way; take that path.” Jesus was unique in saying, “I *am* the way, follow *me*.” For some it is an uncomfortable statement because he says that he is the only way to the Father. He categorically states that. Some would rather take the view that there are many ways to the Father and that Jesus is just one of them. But Jesus did not leave us with that option.

Once when I was conducting a funeral in the crematorium I picked up the pulpit Bible and flicked open to John 14. I noticed that several verses were underlined but one was crossed out; it was “I am the way the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me.” Someone clearly liked the idea of many rooms in the Father's house and Jesus preparing a place for us but not that he was the only way to the Father! But that is the deal! That's the only way we can live with trouble-free hearts in a trouble filled world. These are not sugar coated words of sentimentality. Here is truth that can bring us into a living relationship with Father God and fill our vision with the bright light of hope.

These are troubled times and for some the days are very difficult but the closer we are

**STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL**

## Opening Prayer

Weeping may endure for the night.

**But joy comes in the morning.**

God has been our refuge and our strength:

**A present help in time of trouble.**

## Hymn

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

Your Lord and King adore;

Mortals, give thanks and sing,

And triumph evermore.

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;*

*Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

Jesus the Saviour reigns,

The God of truth and love;

When he had purged our stains,

He took his seat above.

His kingdom cannot fail;

He rules o'er earth and heav'n;

The keys of death and hell

Are to our Jesus giv'n.

## Confession and Absolution

*Orthodox theologian Alexander Schmemmann reminds us that sin wasn't simply that man loved the material; it was that he loved it for itself. It severed the food from God. Man ate the forbidden fruit. Not given, not blessed by God. The first sin was not only our love of the gift, it was our preference for the gift over the giver. Creation was no longer means of knowing and serving and praising God, but a means of satisfying our own greedy appetites.*

Let us confess our sins to God,  
who forgives us in Christ.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry, and repent of all our sins.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us, forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may serve you  
in newness of life to the glory of your  
name. Amen.

## Bible Reading:

*John 14. 1-14*

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.  
Believe in God, believe also in me. In my  
Father's house there are many dwelling-  
places. If it were not so, would I have told  
you that I go to prepare a place for you?  
And if I go and prepare a place for you, I  
will come again and will take you to  
myself, so that where I am, there you  
may be also. And you know the way to  
the place where I am going.' Thomas said  
to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you  
are going. How can we know the way?'  
Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the  
truth, and the life. No one comes to the  
Father except through me. If you know  
me, you will know my Father also. From  
now on you do know him and have seen  
him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the  
Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus  
said to him, 'Have I been with you all this  
time, Philip, and you still do not know  
me? Whoever has seen me has seen the  
Father. How can you say, "Show us the  
Father"? Do you not believe that I am in  
the Father and the Father is in me? The  
words that I say to you I do not speak on  
my own; but the Father who dwells in me  
does his works. Believe me that I am in  
the Father and the Father is in me; but if  
you do not, then believe me because of  
the works themselves. Very truly, I tell  
you, the one who believes in me will also  
do the works that I do and, in fact, will do  
greater works than these, because I am  
going to the Father. I will do whatever  
you ask in my name, so that the Father

may be glorified in the Son. If in my  
name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## Quiet Reflection or Time of Sharing

*(or read page 1)*

## Prayers

*We pray for all aspects of the current crisis  
– for those who are suffering and grieving,  
for health care staff, scientists and  
leaders, for those working in critical jobs,  
for those who are anxious.*

*Collect for the 5th Sunday of Easter:*

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your  
love for the world and the wonder of  
your risen life: give us compassion and  
courage to risk ourselves for those we  
serve, to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

*Collect for Peace:*

Almighty God,  
from whom all thoughts of truth and  
peace proceed: kindle in the hearts of all  
people the true love of peace; and guide  
with your pure and peaceable wisdom  
those who take counsel for the nations of  
the earth; that in tranquillity your  
kingdom may go forward,  
till the earth is filled with the knowledge  
of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*A Prayer for the Sovereign*

Almighty God, the fountain of all  
goodness, bless our Sovereign Lady,  
Queen Elizabeth, and all who are in  
authority under her;  
that they may order all things  
in wisdom and equity, righteousness and  
peace, to the honour of your name,  
and the good of your Church and people;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***We pray the Lord's Prayer.***

## Hymn

To God be the Glory!

Great things he hath done;

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son;

Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,

And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!*

*Let the earth hear his voice;*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!*

*Let the people rejoice:*

*O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,*

*And give him the glory;*

*Great things he hath done.*

Great things he hath taught us,

Great things he hath done,

And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;

But purer, and higher, and greater will be

Our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.

## Act of Commitment

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the  
service of God and our fellow men and  
women: that we may help, encourage  
and comfort others, and support those  
working for the relief of the needy and  
for the peace and welfare of the nations.

**Lord God our Father,  
we pledge ourselves to serve you and  
all humankind, in the cause of peace,  
for the relief of want and suffering,  
and for the praise of your name.**

**Guide us by your Spirit;  
give us wisdom;  
give us courage; give us hope;  
and keep us faithful now and always.  
Amen.**

**Blessing** *(based on 2 Timothy 1.7)*

The peace of God which passes all under-  
standing, keep our hearts and minds in  
the knowledge and love of God and of his  
Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And the  
blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the  
Son and the Holy Spirit, be with us all,  
now and evermore. Amen.