

Fifth Sunday of Easter + 10th May 2020

A simple liturgy for use during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Light a candle. Sit for a few moments to gather your thoughts. Breathe deeply and slowly.

Gathering in God's Presence

Risen Lord,
be the light that shines upon us,
through us and beyond us,
that the worship of our hearts might be the worship of our lives,
this day and all days.

You are the God who calls us to be a chosen people,
a living sacrifice, a holy nation.

You are the God who calls us to be an Easter people,
light to the world, travellers with you.

You are the God who calls us to be a servant people,
worshippers in word and deed.

You are the God we serve!

Amen.

Prayer of Brokenness

Loving God,
we confess that at times we don't know the way.
We have become lost in fear, scattered in hopelessness.
We have forgotten how to listen for Your voice.

We demand signs that this will end,
answers to how to move forward,
because uncertainty is too heavy a burden.

And yet, You have shown us the way, the truth, and the life, through Your son Jesus.

You have shown us the way of love.

You have shown us that our acts of love are powerful,
able to overcome fear and hopelessness.

Remind us of who You have called us to be,
and what You have called us to do: love one another.

In the name of Christ,
who has shown us the way, we pray all things.

Amen.

Readings: John 14.1-14

Today's reading is part of Jesus' farewell discourse in John's gospel. Jesus assures the disciples that there is room for them in the reign of God. In the previous verses, Jesus told the disciples that they would not be able to follow him where he was going that night - arrested and crucified. Peter declared he would lay down his life for Jesus, but Jesus knew he would deny him. However, Jesus assured them that he was going ahead of them, to prepare the way to the place where they were going—and they would know the way.

I
am the
Way
the truth
and
the life

But Thomas asked, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus responded, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” Jesus spoke directly to his disciples in that moment, who were confused and uncertain. Right after Jesus responded to Thomas that if they know him, they know the Father also, Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Their fears were starting to get the better of them. Jesus questioned Philip back, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me?” Jesus continued his response to Philip that he and the Father are one, that those who believe in him will do even greater works, and Jesus will do anything that the disciples ask of him, to glorify God who dwells in him.

How can we follow Jesus when many of us are staying at home, and limited on where we can go? How can we do what Christ has called us to do? More than ever, our world, our country, our community, our neighbours need love. How can we share God’s love? Wearing and making masks, washing our hands, sending cards and picking up the phone—these are all acts of love. Donating food to food pantries, donating funds to shelters, or giving blood—these are all acts of love. Forgiving debts is an act of love. Christ told us that we would not only do the works he did, but even greater works—perhaps our work of love can help transform the world.

Prayer

Let us pray to our heavenly Father in the name of our Lord Jesus, that God’s will may be done in the world and in the lives of those for whom we pray.

We pray for God’s people, the scattered community of believers; that all may faithfully proclaim Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life...

We pray for the leaders of nations and for all who hold authority and power; that those living in darkness may hear and respond to God calling them into light and life...

We pray for all who are distressed, grieving or despairing; that they may hear Jesus saying, “Do not let your hearts be troubled” and know his peace...

We pray for ourselves, that we may share Christ’s love in all our relationships and see his presence in all those we encounter, both friend and stranger...

Heavenly Father, we offer you these prayers trusting that in your love and compassion you will touch the lives of those for whom we pray. We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus, who prays with us and for us. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer



Blessing

May God the Father give us assurance of the light that draws you out of darkness.

May God the Son walk with us along the way to guide and encourage us.

May God the Holy Spirit fill you us joy and peace and unite us in love with the Father and Son. Amen.