

# The Vine at Home - Fifth Sunday of Easter

A short act of worship for use in peoples homes while churches are closed.

A free resource funded by twelvebaskets.

For more information <https://theworshipcloud.com/terms/free-weekly-resource>

As we still ourselves and come to Worship, we pause a moment and reflect on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE day. No parties, no celebrations, but grateful thanks.

## *Pause*

So loving God come and be with us. Let your Holy Spirit wash over us. Open our eyes to your presence, that we might truly worship you this day. Amen.<sup>1</sup>

## **Hymn: 456 STF – And are we yet alive**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOEY-75qtnM&feature=youtu.be>

1. And are we yet alive, and see each other's face?  
Glory and praise to Jesus give for his redeeming grace!
2. Preserved by power divine to full salvation here,  
again in Jesu's praise we join, and in his sight appear.
3. What troubles have we seen, what conflicts have we passed  
fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled last!
4. But out of all the Lord has brought us by his love;  
and still he doth his help afford, and hides our life above.
5. Then let us make our boast of his redeeming power,  
which saves us to the uttermost, till we can sin no more.
6. Let us take up the cross till we the crown obtain,  
and gladly reckon all things loss so we may Jesus gain.

Praise ye the Lord, alleluia! Praise ye the Lord, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Praise ye the Lord!

## **Prayers**

Today we lift our voices to sing our praises to God on high.  
Today with shouts of Joy all creations proclaims your Holy name.  
So praise be to you Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We come with thankful hearts for all the love we have been shown.  
We come with thankful hearts for the blessings we have received.  
We come with thankful hearts for your grace in our lives.

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<sup>1</sup> Prayers by Wayne Grewcock

And as we reflect on all that we have,  
and all that we have received,  
we spend a few moments reflecting on the times  
that we have been less than we could or should have been.

Forgive us dear Lord.

May we know this day your love and your forgiveness in our lives. Amen.<sup>2</sup>

## **We say the Lord's Prayer**

### **Reading: John 14:1-14** Jesus the Way to the Father

"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.

### **Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation - if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,"

And "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

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<sup>2</sup> Prayers by Wayne Grewcock

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

## Reflections on the readings

This week's reflection starts with some thoughts by Judith Dimond, taken from her book *Gazing on The Gospel*:

Consider how, like Thomas, we need every day to refer to some sort of map or instruction manual, even if it is only a recipe, to get by or find our way. As it is in daily life, so it is in our moral and spiritual life – we all need a compass.

It is natural, as we read these gospel excerpts week by week, that we concentrate our attention on Jesus as guide. It is his life we follow from cradle to grave and beyond. It is his preaching and parables we ruminate over. But sometimes we are in danger of treating Christ as if he is the total manifestation of God. We get confused, like Philip, when we think of Jesus as God. Is that all of God there is? Certainly not, for consider how much stress Jesus always laid on the fact that 'the words I say to you are not just my own' and 'it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work' (v.10).

Consider how this week's reading, and next week's which follows straight on, anticipate the great celebrations of Pentecost and Trinity which are just ahead of us. 'I am in the Father and the Father is in me', Jesus says, and he repeats it to make sure we've taken it in. He is trying to describe the unity at the heart of the Trinity, just as next week he continues with his promise of the Counsellor, so that the Trinity will be complete. We should not reserve thinking about the Trinity to one Sunday of the year, but be alert to the many times the threefold dimensions of God are necessary parts of our direction-finding kit.<sup>3</sup>

As I reflected on this piece by Judith Dimond with all that is going on in our current situation it felt like my spiritual compass was just spinning round and round. Last week Alison Ransome asked us to listen deeply to God. To pray more, and share more of God in our lives with others. Our reading from John reminds us that our focus should be on Jesus who is constantly leading us and guiding us, showing us God's plans for our lives.

Our reading from 1 Peter 2:5 is helpfully put in *The Message* "Present yourselves as building stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life, in which you'll serve as holy priests offering Christ-approved lives up to God."

So as we make our way to Pentecost, may we find time and space to listen deeply. You are chosen by God, called to be a holy person, one of God's instruments, called to do God's work and speak out in God's holy name.

In this spinning world may God's way in our lives become clear. Amen.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Taken from *Gazing on the Gospels* by Judith Diamond

**The Vine at Home** is compiled and produced by **twelvebaskets**

<sup>4</sup> Reflection by Wayne Grewcock

## Prayers of intercession

Living God, through the power of your Spirit you raised your son from death.

In the hope of his resurrection, we come to you now in prayers, for the world, the church, ourselves and others. Hear us, Lord, as we bring to you our concerns, our worries, and the problems faced by your people all over the world.

Lord hear us. Lord graciously hear us.

For the world, we pray for peace.

Where there is conflict, disharmony, division, strife, chaos and anarchy,  
Lord let your peace reign.

As Jesus promised the disciples peace, may your peace be present in our world.

Where there is hunger and starvation, we pray for your provision.

Where there is drought, we pray for your natural streams of water to flow.

Where there is spiritual drought, let your living waters flow.

To you Lord we bring our concerns for climate change...

We pray for our leaders...

Lord give them the wisdom to deal with the issues of climate change and governance.

Creator God to you we bring our prayers.

Lord hear us. Lord graciously hear us.

For ourselves and others, we pray for your touch of love. Lord Jesus you came to Mary in the garden, the disciples behind locked doors, the disciples by the lake and on the road to Emmaus. Come to us we pray.

Where there are tears or fears, bring comfort Lord.

Where there are tribulations failure and despair, let your risen power enfold us in your love.

Our individual needs, concerns, worries and joy we bring to you....

Creator God to you we bring our prayers.

Lord hear us Lord graciously hear us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Prayers of intercession by Lansford Penn-Timothy

## Hymn: 409 STF – Let us build a house

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJR6EiO0pSk&feature=youtu.be>

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions.  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus.  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us.  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger.  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

*Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc. Tune: TWO OAKS (see RW #219)*

## Blessing

Gracious God, bless us now as we enter into another week.  
Uncertain, not knowing, fearful for the future.  
Come amongst us, with peace, with grace, with the power of your Spirit,  
That we might be transformed into channels of your love for a broken world.  
Amen.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Additional prayers by Tim Baker