## St Bartholomew’s Aldbrough, All Saints Mappleton with St Giles Goxhill, and St Alban’s Withernwick.

Week beginning: 24th May 2020 Sunday after Ascension Day

Readings: Acts 1.6-14, 1 Peter 4.12-14;5.6-11. John 17.1-11

Our readings today reflect the fact that God’s glory is everywhere but not always visible. Sometimes God’s glory is hidden from sight as it was for the disciples. But equally these readings are about prayer. Jesus’ prayer for his disciples in John’s Gospel is not about a kind of status quo where he can return to heaven as if nothing had happened, but rather that his disciples then and now are included in the same kind of relationship that Jesus has with his Father – a mutual giving of glory reflecting the eternal light. How this is worked out is perhaps more obvious in those opening verses from the Acts of the Apostles – despite all the upheaval and despondency that the disciples had gone through – they knew that if they were to keep going they had to pray together. Praying together for us all has been challenging these past few months – but like the disciples if our focus is on the relationship we have with God our Father through Jesus and the Holy Spirit then we will get through this together – there is light at the end of the tunnel!

## HOLY COMMUNION DURING SUSPENSION OF WORSHIP

The service used throughout this time of suspension is the same each week. Although you cannot receive communion it is perfectly possible (and indeed permissible in these times) to make a ‘spiritual communion’. You might like to light a candle as you ‘watch’ the service on the video and to use the following prayer given by the Church of England: ***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.***

**Favourite Hymns/Songs**

First and foremost we would like to thank everybody who responded to our request to share their choices of favourite hymns/songs with us. Without your co-operation we would not have been able to complete the task set us by the York School of Ministry for our final module (Foundations of Christian Worship) for this academic year.

In total we had 87 different hymn/song titles submitted by 30 individuals, whose eclectic mix included Taizé chants, mid-twentieth century works set to traditional English melodies, beautiful lyrics from Isaac Watts (1647 – 1748), John Newton (1725 – 1807), Samuel Crossman (c. 1624 – 1684) and Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788) and childhood classics, still popular with 21st century 5 year olds (thank you Leah!).

But what you really want to know is which were the most popular within our congregation, so here goes.....

In 1st place with 9 ‘votes’ we have Be still for the presence of the Lord; in 2nd place with 7 ‘votes’ we have Dear Lord and Father of mankind; in joint 3rd place with 6 ‘votes’ each, we have Guide me, O thou great Redeemer, Make me a channel of your peace and Shine Jesus Shine, in joint 4th place with 5 ‘votes’ each, we have.....Praise my soul the King of heaven, Amazing grace, How great thou art and To God be the glory.

Now it would have been perfect if we had only one choice for the next placing to make the total number of titles 10, but hey that would have been too easy, so in joint 5th place with 4 ‘votes’ each, we have..... O come, O come Emmanuel, Jerusalem, The Lord’s my shepherd, Thine be the glory, Bind us together and Great is thy faithfulness.

For those of you, whose choices didn’t make it into the list above, celebrate your individuality!

Let’s hope and pray that we will all make it safely through these awful times and raise our voices together soon in glorious celebration to our Lord.

Antoinette and Jak

*THY KINGDOM COME Thy Kingdom Come is an annual invitation to prayer called by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. Lasting for eleven days from Ascension Day to Pentecost Sunday, the focus is specific prayer in churches, households and as individuals for friends, families, communities and countries to come to know the saving love of God in Jesus Christ, and for ourselves that, empowered by God’s Spirit, we would grow in confidence to show and tell of God’s love. There are a wide range of resources, including daily videos, hymns, prayers etc to support churches on the dedicated Thy Kingdom Come app (available on iOS and Android) or at* [*www.thykingdomcome.global*](http://www.thykingdomcome.global)*.*

Just one financial issue: Since there are no services this does mean that as a consequence there are no collections. However, our churches do still have bills to pay – insurance, expenses, loans and free will offers. So, if you can, please would you consider a regular standing order to ‘your’ Parish Church or indeed a ‘one-off’ gift. Thank you.