

Morning Service – Sunday, 10th May 2020
St Michael's Blundellsands
Worship at home

You may wish to light a candle and have some reflective music playing in the background. Or you can start by listening to (and joining in with) your own choice of hymn on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGGcqhKShQ8> is "Love divine all loves excelling"

Opening: Jesus said, 'All who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.' John 6 v 40

Confession

When we cry out to the Lord in our trouble,

He will deliver us from our distress.

God will bring us out of darkness

And out of the shadow of death.

For our weakness and unbelief

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For living by our own strength and not by the power of your resurrection

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

For being self-indulgent and ignoring your will for our lives.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.



Thought for the day from Helen. Luke 21 v 15-25

Right at the very end of John's gospel, and as a follow up to the scene where the risen Jesus feeds his disciples with bread and fish for breakfast, comes Peter's reinstatement. If you remember, before the crucifixion Peter had denied knowing Jesus 3 times, and here Jesus asks Peter 3 times "Do you love me"? Each time Peter replies in the affirmative and the last time, feeling rather hurt, he says "Yes Lord I love you, you know that

I love you. Each time Jesus gives Peter a commission: “Feed, my lambs”, “Take care of my sheep”, “Feed my sheep”. It’s Peter’s pastoral charge which he fulfils for the rest of his life, by preaching, teaching and caring and will lead to his death. We are all given the same commission, if not to preach or teach, but to care for one another and in the last few weeks we have seen that fulfilled over and over again, in our hospitals, on our streets, in our food banks and indeed through a variety of ways of doing Church differently.

Today I want to turn our attention out of our own bubble and trouble into the wider world. Apart from number of deaths in Western Europe and America, we have heard precious little of what is going on in the rest of the world. In Africa, for example, the cases are already up to 48,000, and the curve is in the rapidly rising phase. As this virus spreads across the world, love rises up in response. Now is the time to reach out to our neighbours both near and far. Our commission in love is to protect our global neighbours battling the spread of this illness.

As a Church we have always supported Christian Aid Week and I am asking you to not forget to give to them this year too.

A prayer at the start of Christian Aid week

Loving God, strengthen our innermost being with your love that bears all things: even the weight of this global pandemic, even the long haul of watching for symptoms, of patiently waiting for this to pass, watching and waiting, keeping our gaze fixed on you, and looking out for our neighbours near and far.

Instil in our shaken souls the belief and hope that all things are possible with your creative love: For strangers to become friends, for science to source solutions, for resources to be generously shared, so everyone, everywhere, may have what they need. For your perfect love that knows no borders may cast out any fear and selfishness that divides.

May your love that never ends be our comfort, strength and guide for the wellbeing of all and the glory of God. **Amen.**

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 15 v 50-58

⁵⁰ I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵ “Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?”

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.



Talk by Neil

(Hover your mouse over the link, then press control and left click)

https://youtu.be/fjpi_TOVmVg

Take a few minutes to contemplate these words.

Prayers

A prayer for the day

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**

For our leaders

Eternal God, Fount of wisdom,
we ask you to bless the national leaders we have elected,
grant that through their discussions and decisions
we may solve our problems effectively,
enhance the well-being of our nation,
and achieve together a fairer and more united society. **Amen**

Lord's Prayer

Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation: but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory,
For ever and ever. **Amen**

The Conclusion The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with my spirit. **Amen**