



Fifth Sunday after Easter

A Short Reflective Service of Prayer for those at home

As the people of God let us remember -
Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

Come then all who thirst,
come, drink the water of life.

Come now all who hunger
and be filled with good things.

Come all who seek God,
be warmed with the fire of his love.

A Reading from the New Testament

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god."

Now what you worship as something unknown, I am going to proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, is Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, God did this so that they would seek him, perhaps search for him and find him - though he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being."

Light your own Candle
(please ensure this is done safely)

Pause for a moment of quiet

Pause for Thought

I once had someone regale me with Einstein's theory of relativity, clearly they enjoyed their subject but unless you are a physicist, how long would it be before (like me) you found a reason to excuse yourself? The subject may be fascinating to likeminded scientists but to someone who hasn't a clue about physics its as though they are speaking another language!

This brings me to the point of the Bible reading today, communication is about speaking to people in a language they understand and can relate to.

If I am honest, I struggle to keep up with the cultural and technological shifts in the world today. It is now common for people to use in the process of communication, streaming, face time, texting, imojis....

Some things of course I can work out, when preaching from the pulpit I often see this look on peoples faces!

Although I jest, it is easy to see and know when people have 'switched off' listening to what I am saying!



When it comes to speaking about the Christian faith to those who have perhaps never been to a church and know nothing about the Bible, we need to keep things simple, talk to people in a way they might understand and feel more inclined to learn more about Jesus.

Last week I said we need to stand up and stand out for Jesus, this is the truth however, talking to people in churchy jargon, in a language they do not understand is destined to fail.

This week, I discovered to my discomfort that I am actually only speaking to around six people using this website service;

I wish it were more, not out of vanity you understand but because I think that in this crisis filled world, knowing the love of Jesus in our lives is more important than ever.

There is a verse in Isaiah, 'Did you not know, have you not heard, has no one told you?'

More than ever, people need to know about the love and hope found in Jesus.

What is plain to me is that we need to learn the ways of the world, we need to take on board that for many God is not found exclusively in our churches! We need to use technology, learn the language people talk so that we can speak to others of what Jesus means for us, for them, for the world and for our eternity.

Pause for a moment of quiet

May we journey onwards in peace



finding hope in the One true God who is life.
Bless your people O God,
and let the light of your love shine upon us always. AMEN

A Call to Prayer

Let us pray for the world, the Church and each other

Prayers for the World

Who will we pray for today? Let us name them.

(Silently name those we pray for)

Come, Host of heavens high dwelling place,
come, earth's disputed guest,
find in this house a welcome home,
and bring your rest to our troubled lives.
O Lord, hear our prayers today.

Have mercy on your people O God
In this time of great trial.

Bring healing and wholeness to people and nations,
and have pity on those suffering in their isolation.

Strengthen all who are fearful of disease and death,
bring them to a new hope in Christ.

Hear the cry of those in pain, those who lament,
grant them your peace and surround them with your presence.

Give rest to the departed
and bring them, with your saints, to glory everlasting.

We commend the world to you for which Christ died,
lead us in the pathways of truth
and grant us your protection O God,
Now and forever more,
AMEN.

The 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

Closing Prayer

As new growth breaks through the soil,
as the blossoms burst forth on the trees
may the seeds of your love travel to the ends of the earth
bringing joy, love, hope, healing and peace to all people.
AMEN

Let us bless the Lord, thanks be to God. Amen!

