



Passion Sunday, 21st March 2021

Dear Friends,

Hoping everyone is keeping well. This weekend marks a year since the beginning of lockdown. Every corner of life has been touched. We hear heartbreak, adaptation, resilience, courage, perseverance and joy. Time to listen to the birds. As we come out of lockdown, other countries go in, our world is more interlinked than we realise. This weekend we get counted much like Mary and Joseph. A little different with technology!

So much is going on. The government has been busy with its review of security, defence and foreign policy. Also the new police bill, drawing particular attention as we come to terms with the consequences of the tragic death of Sarah Everard. Question marks about the effectiveness of the Oxford COVID vaccine have been shown to be erroneous and COVID is no longer seen as the biggest economic risk we are facing!!

PRAYER

God of love,
turn our hearts
and the hearts of our leaders
to your ways;
and give us peace.
Amen

As Christians, we believe God is ultimately in control of world history. We have our part to play. We are called to pray for the world and our leaders. Jesus taught us to pray, “thy kingdom come thy will be done”. Jesus also taught his disciples how to live, that, “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but

if it dies, it bears much fruit” (John 12.24). An incredibly simple yet profound and powerful picture of Jesus’ life and death and of what following Jesus involves.

CHORUS FROM A FAVOURITE HYMN

This is our God, the Servant King -
He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King

Jesus came to serve and teach us to serve. “Whoever serves me must follow me, where I am, there will my servant be also” (John 12.26)

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.
Amen

March 23rd is a National Day of Reflection. We are asked to keep a minute of silence at 12 noon on March 23rd and place a light or candle in our windows at 8pm that day. Over 125,000 people have sadly lost their lives to COVID in this country alone with many more lives disrupted and devastated. Our thoughts and prayers are with all.



If you haven't yet tried our zoom services and would like to, do let Judy judyknott3@gmail.com or me know and we'll send you an invitation for tomorrow's Sunday Service at 11am.

Our lent course continues on Wednesday at 7pm on zoom when we will be discussing the 7th and 8th of the 10 commandments.

Our Church buildings are open again for worship next Sunday 28th March. We will meet at St Mary's, Trawden at 9:30 am for our Palm Sunday service. In order to keep folk safe we will wear masks and ensure social distancing is in place.

From Monday 29th March until Friday 2nd April, we will travel through Holy Week, with Morning Prayer on zoom each day at 9:30am.

On Good Friday 2nd April we can travel the journey to Calvary with 'Stations of the Cross' on zoom at 12 noon.

Our Easter Sunday Dawn Holy Communion, when we welcome Easter morning, will be in Christ Church churchyard. It will begin at 7am. We will continue to celebrate at our Easter Day Communion, which will be at St Michael's, Foulridge at 9:30 am. Our Easter Day services will conclude with Easter Worship on zoom at 11am.

The Diocesan Service this week will be a livestream broadcast from Preston Minster on the diocesan YouTube channel at 11am.

Please take care and look after yourselves. You are continually in my thoughts and prayers. If there is anything you need please call. I like to catch up with folk. If you have special prayer requests for yourself or others please let me know. I love to pray each day and if you are happy for us to do so, we pray for people each week at Compline.

With love, blessings and continued prayers,
Rev John
Mobile: 07845 790421
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PRAYER FOR PASSION SUNDAY

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

FAVOURITE HYMN – SERVANT KING

From heaven you came helpless babe
enter'd our world Your Glory veil'd
Not to be served but to serve
And give Your life that we might live

*This is our God, the Servant King -
He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King*

There in the garden of tears
My heavy load He chose to bear
His heart with sorrow was torn
Yet "Not my will but Yours", He said

Come see His hands and His feet -
The scars that speak of sacrifice
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered

So let us learn how to serve
And in our lives enthrone Him
Each other's needs to prefer
For Christ we're serving