

We are the church.

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Sunday 24th May – Easter 7



Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

During this incredibly difficult, worrying and anxious time for ourselves, our families and our neighbours and the wider community, how do we respond with the voice of hope and peace – it can only be through prayer. We are a **PRAYING COMMUNITY**. It is through prayer that we lift our thanks, joys, worries, fears and petitions to our Father in heaven. I know, because I have spoken with many of you, that you are praying, and I would like to coordinate your prayer effort to ensure we are praying for our needs and the needs of those around us. With that in mind I am setting up a “rota” for people to sign up to. It will ensure that every day for 30mins at least one person has prayed for the **needs of our family, friends & community**. Would you be willing, from the comfort and ease of your own home to set aside 30mins to pray. We can help by supplying ideas to help you pray. Email me mike.smith@st-george-brockworth.org.uk if you are interested in being part of St. George’s Prayer Network.

Notices:

ISingPop: if you have children or grandchildren at Primary School they may enjoy this [YouTube channel](#). It’s fun, engaging content to help your children explore their faith. (I have worked with them on several occasions and they are really good). Their latest content looks at “[Hope](#)”.

Foodbank: please use the supermarket collection points while the church office is closed, and our movement is limited. Also, donations can be made direct to [Gloucester Foodbank](#), through their [Giving Page](#).

Cake Makers: We are currently taking cakes into Millbrook Lodge and the primary schools in our community weekly, the carers and teachers really appreciate the thought are truly blessed by it, as they do their jobs in extremely vulnerable environments. If you are willing and able to make a cake every other week or once a month, any kind, to give to them, they would be hugely blessed. I will try and get any ingredient you need and deliver it to you and then collect the cakes from you to deliver them. Email or call me if you would like to make a cake.

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We all say and remember:

Alleluia, Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Sing: *(click on the song title and it should open up and play in youtube, if you fancy something traditional click on the first link. Alternatively, if you fancy trying something a little bit more contemporary try the second link ... if you're feeling totally radical try both!!)*

traditional: [Give Me Joy in My Heart](#)

contemporary: [My Lighthouse](#)

For words said that have been wrong and unkind.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit. Jesus forgive us.

For thoughts that have been false and impure.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit. Jesus forgive us.

For actions that have been harmful and hurtful to others.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit. Jesus forgive us.

We are assured of God's forgiveness:

We are assured of God's forgiveness:
Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
Have mercy on us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sin,
Confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
And keep us in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Gospel Reading — John 17:1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed

“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

Have you ever wondered ... if you had access to a time machine when would you go back to? I recently came across a top ten list of destinations for the historical traveller, Ancient Egypt, The Old West in the United States and London in the 14th Century were all in the top ten. However, the top destination was Rome at the height of the Roman Empire. I was surprised not to see dinosaurs as a destination – but that’s probably the boy in me!! However, a top destination for me would be to go and see Jesus when he was teaching and healing, but also when he went off alone to pray and be with his Father.

I am fascinated with these moments because it from these times that Jesus says, “Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater works than these, so that you will be astonished”.

We only have a couple of verses which describe Jesus’s words when he was alone: Matthew 11:23-25, John 11:41-42 and in our text for today. These are privileged moments as Jesus speaks directly to his Father – Jesus is praying.

Jesus is praying for those who give their lives to him. Those who have acknowledge the Kingdom of God moving amongst them. Seeing the miracles and hearing the teaching the new Kingdom is breaking in, and new believers submit themselves to the King of the new Kingdom, Lord Jesus Christ. This is not just for 1st Century believers but believers throughout the centuries, to us: to you and me as we read his word today.

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This prayer comes from an overflow of compassion as he prepares his disciples for the time he will ascend. The origin for this teaching are laid in John 16, "it is to your advantage that I go away, if I do not go away, the Advocate [Helper] will not come to". A time is coming when the disciples will be tested and scattered, as Jesus is arrested, beaten and then hung on the cross. As we go through life with the trials and difficulties, as we go through our new Corona reality and a new envisioned society beginning to emerge, with the fears and anxieties it presents to us, we have Jesus's prayer and the prayer of the church covering us.

So this week as we go about our lives, let us remember and live out in boldness and confidence the promises which we set our lives on, and tightly hold on the promises and prayers of Jesus and the church.

Saint Augustine wrote: "Understanding is the reward of faith. Therefore, do not seek to understand in order to believe, but believe that you may understand".

Sing: (*click on the song title and it should open up and play in youtube*)

[Come down, O Love Divine](#)

Declare aloud with boldness and confidence our faith:

I believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist

I believe and trust in Jesus, God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again.

I believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world

This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God,
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

We are the church.

We pray for the world, the church, and for our family, friends & our neighbour's:

For the health and well-being of our nation: we thank you for all those whom you have protected from the Coronavirus and we pray that all who are fearful and anxious may be at peace and free from worry.

We pray for all those who are putting themselves at an increased risk to care for others: for the carers at Millbrook Lodge, Brockworth House, Doctors surgeries and pharmacies.

We also pray for those in our local schools: Brockworth Primary Academy, Castle Hill Primary School, Coopers Edge School and Henley Bank High School.

Heavenly Father would you increase your spirit in these places that all that go through these places would both know and experience your peace and hope, keep all those who work there protected.

For the isolated and housebound: we pray that we may be alert to their needs, and care for them with our words and prayers and actions in their vulnerability.

Protect, support and sustain all those working in our local hospitals, care homes and pharmacies, and their families. Give them the peace, strength and comfort they need at the moment to treat and nurse for all those in their care.

Think of a situation or region in the world that needs to see justice. Pray for the leaders and the people to be united to find peace with justice.

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

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We pray with confidence as our saviour has taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Sing: (*click on the song title and it should open up and play in youtube*)

[Breath on Me Breath of God](#)

Numbers 6:24-26 *The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

Until we can come together in worship & witness be strong in the Lord & in his mighty power. (Eph6:10)

- AMEN?

I would love to hear from you about what is inspiring you in your faith at the moment: have you seen, heard or watch something which completely captivated you and made you wonder at the height, depth, and breadth of our Father and his Kingdom slowly being unveiled around us.