**All You Need is Love…**

**Sunday 17th May – Easter 6**



**Holy Spirit increase your presence in us and in our home, so that we would both know and experience you in our worship now and throughout the week.**

It is so great to be back and a massive thank you to all those who have prayed and sent kind messages – Praise God we are all well. Also, a massive thank you to David for preparing our weekly worship over the previous weeks, which helped us worship and remind ourselves that our buildings maybe closed but **our Church is Open!!**

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 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**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9jBUW8OnGU&feature=youtu.be): if you have children or grandchildren at Primary School they may enjoy this [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd7DPjgn_5vaW1lnFR05JSw). 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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=na9ld4sdxns)”.

**Foodbank**: please use the supermarket collection points while the church office is closed, and our movement is limited.

**The Long Table:** a great initative fighting food poverty and tackling food waste – check them out [The Long Table](https://www.thelongtableonline.com/ready-meals) – 7 ready meals delivered to your door for £25. Donations can also be made to help The Long Table **feed individuals and families who are vulnerable and in need**. Free meals are available contact them direct 01452 234831 gloucester@thelongtableonline.com or call me 07415 089897 and I can put you in contact with them.

**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.

**Ascension Day Thursday 21st May**: we might not be able to meet but we can still remember Ascension Day. I will send a service sheet out for us to celebrate this event.

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*)

[O Jesus I Have Promised](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oti-K_VvyCI).

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.





We are church.

**Gospel Reading** – John 14:15-21

### **The Promise of the Holy Spirit**

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?”Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me.

“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise let us be on our way.

Can you remember the craziest things you did when you first met your partner? Or, generous gifts given to parents, siblings or good friends. Some of the most extravagant acts we have done have been out of love.

Our reading begins and ends with love, and love is the foundation which John wrote his gospel, 3:16 “for God so loved the world he gave his one and only Son”. Love is mentioned 39 times in his gospel, and John recalls only a single commandment, 13:34, “this is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.  No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends”. It is from this foundation of love that Jesus models how to love. Not just the easy people who love you back, but the difficult people who lie, deceive and betray you!! Jesus encourages us to love one another, we can only try to love as Jesus loved, but with our human nature someone at some time will hurt us, and it will be difficult for us to show them love back, but if we don’t try to love one another we allow the hurt and pain of unforgiveness to turn into resentment and anger, which can turn into retaliation with our words and actions. Showing someone love with our actions, not necessarily with a heartfelt love, can be the beginning of the love that Jesus is talking about in his commandment to “love one another”. However, Jesus knows we are going to find this hard, which is why we are given an advocate, a helper: the Holy Spirit, to fill and help us, and the first quality of a life in the Holy Spirit is … love (Galatians 5:22).

Our challenge, in lockdown and in “normal time” is to show that love in the way we speak and behave towards one another, the best way to show love is to respond to needs: the needs of people and the needs of a community. Someone you know may need affirming words spoken to them, encouraging them. Someone may need to know simply that there is someone who cares enough to reach out and call or send a card. We, as a community of faith, are doing that in many ways, I know having spoken to you. One example is showing those on the frontline in our community love by giving them cakes, Millbrook Lodge, Brockworth Primary Academy, Castle Hill Primary School and Coopers Edge School, all have been given cakes over the past few weeks and responded and told me how much they appreciate being thought of that we are remembering they are there. This week let us be that voice of love to someone in need, whatever that looks (but stay safe!!) … AMEN?

**Sit & Reflect** – take a few moments to sit and think about the power of your actions. The love, care and kindness that is shared when you worship God when you show love to your neighbour.

**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 pray for the world, the church, and for our family, friend & 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.

For our community: thank you for the VE-Day celebrations in Brockworth, thank you as a country we know more peace. Thank you for all the conversation and friendships that are being made with our neighbour’s.

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 and 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.

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

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*)

[Great is thy Faithfulness](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTKIqmdfHSk).

**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.***