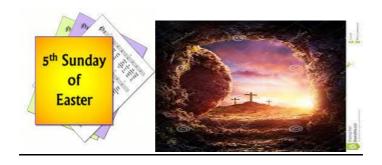


The magazine of the Anglican Chaplaincy of Christ the Good Shepherd, Poitou-Charentes, France

Sunday 2nd May 2021



Still celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus

Bible Passages set for today:

Acts 8.26-40

Psalm 22.25-31

1 John 4.7-21

Gospel of John 15.1-8

Collects

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

*

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.

*

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

TODAY is called "Cantate Sunday" after the Canticle which is sometimes used as an alternative to the *Magnificat* in the order for Evening Prayer (Evensong) in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP 1662)

'Cantate Domino' - the words are taken from Psalm 98

O SING unto the Lord a new song: for he hath done marvellous things.

With his own right hand, and with his holy arm: hath he gotten himself the victory.

The Lord declared his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.

He hath remembered his mercy and truth toward the house of Israel:

and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.

Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands: sing, rejoice, and give thanks.

Praise the Lord upon the harp: sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.

With trumpets also and shawms:
O shew yourselves joyful before the Lord the King.

Let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is: the round world, and they that dwell therein.

Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together before the Lord: for he cometh to judge the earth.

With righteousness shall he judge the world: and the people with equity.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:

world without end Amen

Virtual Worship + Led by Rev'd Steven Abram



Simply type this link into your computer:
https://www.facebook.com/Virtual-Worship-Poitou-Charentes-104677654507124/

If you can't make it at 10.30, you can see Steve & Nicky and hear the Bible readings, prayers and sermon later in the day by connecting to:

www.abram.org.uk/vw



Our service of worship this Sunday takes place at 10.30.am on Facebook.

Rev'd Steven Abram, supported by his wife Nikki, will lead us in thoughts based on 1 Corinthians, chapter 2;

The title is: "Sticking to Basics" or 'KISS - Keep it Super Simple'.

This service will include an "AGAPE", so, if you wish, have Bread and Wine (or an equivalent) ready.

NEXT WEEK (9th May): a service via Zoom at 10.30

READ THE CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

As we continue through 2 Samuel, I Chronicles and Psalms, we must remind ourselves that the compilers of this list of passage have put them in what they consider to be in the order of time in which the events happened or in which they were written, or in which they make sense of one another.

They also seem to think that we have more time to read on some days than others! Stay with it.

TODAY (2nd May):

2 Samuel 11:2 - 12:24, Psalm 6:1-10, Psalm 32:1-11, Psalm 38:1-22

MONDAY: Psalm 51:1-19, Psalm 103:1-22, 2 Samuel 12:26-31, 1 Chronicles 20:1-3, Psalm 21:1-13, 2 Samuel 12:24-25, 2 Samuel 8:2, 1 Chronicles 18:2, 2 Samuel 23:20, 1 Chronicles 11:22, 2 Samuel 8:3-4, 1 Chronicles 18:3-4, 2 Samuel 8:7-8, 1 Chronicles 18:7-8, 2 Samuel 8:5-6, 1 Chronicles 18:5-6

You will notice the repetition of passages so far through Samuel and Chronicles. They were written at different periods of history. If you were able to take time out to read each book separately, you would discover that each has a different emphasis, not always obvious in our current plan.

TUESDAY: Psalm 124:1-8, Psalm 108:1-13, Psalm 60:1-12, 2 Samuel 8:9-14, 1 Chronicles 18:9-13, Psalm 44:1-26, Psalm 20:1-9, 2 Samuel 23:18-19, 1 Chronicles 11:20-21

WEDNESDAY: 2 Samuel 23:20-39, 1 Chronicles 11:22-47, 2 Samuel 8:15-18, 1 Chronicles 18:14-17, 2 Samuel 7:1-29, 1 Chronicles 17:1-27

THURSDAY: Psalm 138:1-8, Psalm 139:1-24, Psalm 145:1-21, 2 Samuel 21:1-14, 2 Samuel 9:1-13, Psalm 8:1-9

FRIDAY: 2 Samuel 5:13-16, 1 Chronicles 14:3-7, 1 Chronicles 3:4-9, 2 Samuel 13:1 - 15:6

SATURDAY: 2 Samuel 24:1-25, 1 Chronicles 21:1-30, 2 Samuel 15:7-36

NEXT SUNDAY (9th May)

Psalm 3:1-8, Psalm 4:1-8, Psalm 11:1-7, Psalm 23:1-6, Psalm 26:1-12, 2 Samuel 16:1-14, Psalm 12:1-8, Psalm 36:1-12

Thy Kingdom Come



'Thy Kingdom Come' is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

Since its start in May 2016, just five years ago, God has grown 'Thy Kingdom Come' from a dream of possibility into a movement. Christians from 172 countries have taken part in praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

This praying together has been across our diversity and differences as every person, household and church are encouraged to pray in their own way. Whilst an astonishing 92% of people said they were praying for family and friends to come to faith in Jesus, and 40% of those taking part in 2019 did so for the first time, we recognise there is much more we can do together to help *Thy Kingdom Come* be fully in the lifeblood of the Church.

The wave of prayer runs for 10 days between the Christian festivals of Ascension and Pentecost. This year 'Thy Kingdom Come' will take place between **May 13th & May 23rd**..

>>>>>> During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ
- Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus
- Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing.

Through the centuries Christians have gathered at that time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. 'Thy Kingdom Come' picks up this tradition. Over the years more and more worshipping communities have dedicated the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray 'Come Holy Spirit'.

We are praying that the Spirit will inspire and equip us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our friends and families, our communities and networks. It has been amazing how many varied ways there have been in which people from every tradition have taken up this challenge. The effects have been remarkable.

It is our prayer that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and his love for the world will hear it for themselves, respond and follow Him. Specifically, we again invite each and every Christian across the globe to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 friends who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call.

Whether you have joined in 'Thy Kingdom Come' before or not, we invite you to take part – along with churches from over 65 different denominations in 172 countries around the world.

We ask people to pray in whatever way they want and with whoever they want, for others to come to know Jesus Christ.

Thy Kingdom Come: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3k3plwVqisA



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR BIBLE?

Here's a little quiz to surprise you!

- 1. Which book of the Bible has no mention of God?
- 2. How many "books" are there in the Old Testament?
- 3. God provided 'Manna' for the Israelites in the wilderness. What does the word "Manna" mean?
- 4. Which woman has most mentions in the Bible?
- 5. What is the shortest book of the Bible?
- 6. On which island was Saint Paul shipwrecked?
- 7. Who asked Pontius Pilate for the body of the crucified Jesus?
- 8. What did John the Baptist eat in the desert?
- 9. In addition to his Gospel, which other book did Luke write? (Full name)
- 10. Who was the first Christian martyr?
- 11. Which is the oldest (the first to be written) book of the Bible
- 12. How many verses are there in Psalm 119?

The first letters of each answer are given to you below, but not in the right order.

Wii, JoA, S, E, 2J, J, 176, M, L&WH, AotA, 39, S

The correct answers are written small and upside-down at the bottom of the back page - NO cheating!

By the way, the next Chaplaincy Quiz on Zoom (which may or may not include a round about the Bible) will be on the last day of May.

We are an Easter People

Easter has come and gone, but in many ways it still feels and looks like Lent.

We are still in waiting mode, wondering when we will be free of this COVID-19 lockdown. As Christians, we are called to be an "Easter People," but that's not easy when we are in the middle of a global battle or when we are fearful.

The good news is that this is a battle and not the war – the war was already won when Jesus suffered on the Cross and rose from the dead. This pandemic and the way it has changed our lives is one of many battles we are called to fight so that we can exercise our freedom to be faithful and show our love for God.

The term "Easter People," is attributed to St. Augustine of Hippo who lived in the fourth century.

In 1986, Pope John Paul II spoke the following words:

"We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain. But we know Jesus has conquered sin and passed through his own pain to the glory of the Resurrection. And we live in the light of his Paschal Mystery - the mystery of his Death and Resurrection.

'We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!"

Are we singing "Alleluia" loud enough? Are we teaching our children that the cry of "Alleluia!" is the antidote to fear? After a Lent that was full of penances not of our choosing – self-isolation, social distancing, anxiety – we were longing for Easter. But now that the "Alleluia!" has been sung, are we allowing Easter to define our lives? Or are our lives being dictated by daily press conferences, a fear-mongering social media, and endless searches on the internet in a quest to control what is totally out our control? Do our family members, friends and neighbours know we are in the midst of rejoicing over the resurrection of our Saviour?

[Article adapted from the website of the Catholic Church in British Columbia]

A PRAYER FOR EACH DAY

God of life,

May the promise of the sunrise be echoed in our minds;

May the warmth of the midday sun flow through our hearts;

May the peace of the sunset touch our souls;

And when life seems dark, teach us to remember even then

that you are with us, and that we will again see your Light.

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1. Esther 2.39 3..What is it? 4. Sarah 5.2 John 6. Malta 7. Joseph of Arimathea 8. Locusts & Wild Honey 9. Acts of the Apostles 10. Stephen 11. Job 12. 176

ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ (Page 8):