

21st June 2020 6pm United with Jesus in his Resurrection

Service led by Val Whiteman, talk by Anthony Manning

Bible readings by Geoff Whiteman and Hanne Manning

Welcome and Preparation.....	1
Hymn: Oh, the deep, deep Love of Jesus.....	3
Epistle: Romans 6:1b-11 [NIVUK].....	3
Psalms 86:1-10 [NIVUK].....	4
Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39.....	4
Talk.....	5
The Creed.....	6
Intercessions.....	7
Hymn: To God be the Glory.....	9
The Grace.....	10

Welcome and Preparation

[Val Whiteman:] [**Responses read by Geoff Whiteman**]

Good evening, it's lovely to see everybody, even if only virtually. We are hope you're enjoying the good weather and feeling good, even as lockdown lifts. We look forward to seeing one another at some point in, we hope, the near future. In the meantime, we're here on Zoom. Tonight our theme is 'United with Jesus in His Death and Resurrection.' Anthony will be talking to us in a little while. And Geoff and Hanne will be doing our readings. If you have a green service book, then the service of Evensong starts on page 10. All the words should be up on the screen so you don't really need the book. So let's begin with a short time of quiet as we think about coming into God's presence to worship Him.

[Pause]

So we begin:

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you

All **and also with you.**

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

All **Let us rejoice and sing God's praise for ever.**

We have come together in the name of Christ
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

So we come to that time when we think about what we have or haven't done that's been displeasing to God. Let's spend a moment bringing to mind maybe the things that we need to bring to God.

[Pause]

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

All **Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Blessed are you, sovereign God,
our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise for ever.
You led your people to freedom
by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.
May we who walk in the light of your presence
acclaim your Christ, rising victorious,
as he banishes all darkness from our hearts and minds.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

The day is almost over, and the evening has come;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

[pause]

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your Spirit come down upon us
to set us free to sing your praise
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

So now, before Geoff reads to us, we'll have our first hymn, which is a lovely Welsh hymn sung by the Welsh, "Oh, the deep deep love of Jesus".

Hymn: Oh, the deep, deep Love of Jesus

Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus,
vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!
Rolling as a mighty ocean
in its fullness over me!
Underneath me, all around me,
is the current of thy love –
leading onward, leading homeward,
to that glorious rest above!

Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus –
spread his praise from shore to shore!
How he loves us, ever loves us,
changes never, nevermore!
How he watches o'er his loved ones,
died to call them all his own;
how for them he's interceding,
watching o'er them from the throne!

Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus,
love of every love the best!
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'tis a haven sweet of rest!
Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus –
'tis heaven of heavens to me;
and it lifts me up to glory,
for it lifts me up to thee!

Epistle: Romans 6:1b-11 [NIVUK]

[Geoff Whiteman:]

Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase? ² By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – ⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

[Val:]

Thank you, Geoff. I'd like to read a psalm now, Psalm 86 verses one to 10.

Psalm 86:1-10 [NIVUK]

¹ Hear me, LORD, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.

² Guard my life, for I am faithful to you;
save your servant who trusts in you.

You are my God; ³ have mercy on me, Lord,
for I call to you all day long.

⁴ Bring joy to your servant, Lord,
for I put my trust in you.

⁵ You, Lord, are forgiving and good,
abounding in love to all who call to you.

⁶ Hear my prayer, LORD;
listen to my cry for mercy.

⁷ When I am in distress, I call to you,
because you answer me.

⁸ Among the gods there is none like you, Lord;
no deeds can compare with yours.

⁹ All the nations you have made
will come and worship before you, Lord;
they will bring glory to your name.

¹⁰ For you are great and do marvellous deeds;
you alone are God.

Amen.

Hanne will now read to us. After which, Anthony will come and talk to us.

Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39

[Hanne Manning:]

²⁴ 'The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

²⁶ ‘So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. ²⁸ Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

³² ‘Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.

³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ ‘Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to turn

“a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law –

³⁶ a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.”

³⁷ ‘Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Talk

[Anthony Manning:]

Let's pray.

Lord Jesus, thank you for drawing us into all that you are doing in the world.

Amen.

So, what does it mean that, as we just read from Paul, we are united with Jesus Christ in His death, and in His resurrection? Hmm.

God the Father, the Creator, is the meaning, the value, of everything, especially the meaning of life, of awareness, of choosing, of priorities, and the culture and society that lead us to think the way we do.

Several examples:

How we, as individuals and as the whole human race, respect our planet, our environment, that's so important.

And we have started to see things differently in this time. Recently we've started to think about how different sorts of people are valued, respected; Black Lives Matter now; or do they?

How our country is hit by this pandemic, and how we can respond to it. How we will care for those whose life, food, whose opportunities are destroyed by this pandemic? I'm so pleased that St John's Church is very involved in the local Foodbank. But I'm really concerned to read that the World Food Programme expects that, by the end of this year, the number of people around the world facing acute food insecurity will have doubled to a quarter of a billion. How much God cares about issues like these!

Jesus is the Word of God, God expressing himself in human life. As the letter to the Hebrews says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever!" Jesus came to bring in God's kingdom, God's way of doing things. And how we as individuals and societies fit in to God's way of doing things.

What are God's priorities? When Jesus was asked that, he said, "Love God and love your neighbour." And (in the story he told of the good Samaritan) "especially the person you come across who really needs your help."

But the people in power, said 'No' to Jesus, 'We'll keep to our way.' And they got rid of him - or so they thought! How he suffered! But he came through it. He is alive, much more alive now!

If you were baptised by John the baptist in the River Jordan, he pulled you down under the water, like drowning, like dying with Jesus, and then he pulled you up again into the fresh air, alive again, like coming alive with Jesus! We've just heard from Paul's words in chapter 6 of his letter to the Romans:

Don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death?

And then Paul writes:

If we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Jesus (together with his body of all his followers) is still pushing against bad ways, still working for God's priorities, and, often, rejected again. The last words of Jesus that we read from Matthew's Gospel were:

Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

Following Jesus is demanding.

Some things to think about: where is your life heading? If you have been baptised (your choice or your parents, perhaps), what does that mean to you? Explore its significance a bit more deeply. If you haven't been baptised, is it time to think about that as part of your connection to Jesus? If you are a godparent, even if you have lost touch with your godchildren, do pray for them, asking that they may be part of what God is doing in the world.

Thank you, Jesus, for drawing us in to all that you are doing in the world!
Amen!

The Creed

[Val:]

Thank you, Anthony, for your talk. Let us say the creed together.

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Intercessions

So now we come to a time where we make our intercessions to our loving Heavenly Father. So let us pray.

Father God, we thank you for all the good gifts you've given us. Think for a moment for the good things we have, even when we're isolating: spring this year has been so beautiful and we've been more than ever aware of the beauty of our surroundings. So we say, thank you, Lord, thank you for the beauty of the world. Thank you for friends and family, for the technology which enables us to stay in touch with them. Thank you for those who work so hard to keep us safe, for all the workers in the NHS, for the council workers who collect our rubbish and clean our streets. Thank you for the police who work to keep us safe, for the teachers who work so hard to make sure our children learn. And thank you for the many volunteers who see a need, and meet it. Thank you for those who are working in churches and other places of worship, to bring hope and love where there's sadness and despair. I'll leave a moment now of silence for you to say your own thank-you,

Lord, in your mercy:

All Hear our prayer.

We pray for our country and for our government. Whatever political party we espouse, we need to pray for our leaders as they struggle with this crisis. For the Bible says that we should pray for our leaders.

So we pray for those who lead us, we pray for Boris Johnson, for Rishi Sunak, Priti Patel, Dominic Raab, for Matt Hancock and for the rest of the cabinet. We ask that you will lead them rightly to do what is best for us. And we pray that they may turn to you, so that they can find strength to do what is just, right and good. We pray too for other politicians and for our local government. We thank you for people who are willing to volunteer to serve us. And we ask your blessing on them. We think about our new mayor, Richard Dickson, and we pray for him and for the town council, that they too may turn to you to do what is best for all.

Lord, in your mercy:

All **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for businesses, as we come out of lockdown, particularly for those that are in our town, give those who fear for their livelihoods the sense that you are with them. We pray too for all who are feeling alone and frightened, especially because they're not sure how they'll survive. We ask for a generous spirit in us, that we must support those who have little.

Lord, in your mercy:

All **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who live with injustice.

As we think about the Black Lives Matter movement, we acknowledge our own prejudices, and we pray that you will enable us to recognise them and to repent of them. We pray for your love to be in us as we meet all people, so that no-one feels a foreigner or an outsider when they meet us. May we all acknowledge your grace in us, which makes us part of your family.

Lord, in your mercy:

All **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are ill.

I'll leave a time of quiet so that you can remember those who are known to you.

[pause]

Father God, we know that you are a loving and a caring God, and we trust you. We bring before you now those people we've named, who are sick in mind, body or spirit, and we pray for your healing touch on them. We pray too for those who care for them, that they may know your strength enfolding them. We also pray for all those whose friends or family have died recently. Please give them the comfort of your presence, the knowledge that you are there in the dark valley, and that you walk with them.

So we bring our prayers together saying,

Merciful Father,

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

Now we say the special prayer for today¹.

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth:
send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,

1 The Second Sunday after Trinity

the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
as our Saviour has taught us, so we pray the Lord's Prayer together:

All **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 for ever.
Amen.**

So as our service draws to a close, before we say the grace together, we sing our last hymn: *To God be the Glory*.

Hymn: To God be the Glory

To God be the glory, great things He has done!
So loved He the world that He gave us his Son,
who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord! praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son:
and give him the glory! Great things he has done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Refrain

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see!

Refrain

The Grace

Thank you for joining us in our worship. Next week we look forward to Andrew doing the longer teaching, which is on Romans 8. So we look forward to that. So as we end we say the grace together, remembering everybody in homes around Kenilworth sharing with us, as you say this grace with us:

**All The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 and the love of God,
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
 be with us all evermore.
 Amen.**

[Transcribed by <https://otter.ai> with help from Hamish Blair]

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