

15th May 2021 - 6pm Evening Prayer - Jesus Prays For His Followers
Leader and Speaker: Anthony Manning; Readers: Hanne Manning, John Wild
Intercessions: Gill Palmer

Transcript by YouTube

[Anthony:]

so welcome everybody to this service of evening prayer from john's church in kenilworth

um my name is anthony and the bible readings will be read by hanne here and john and the uh prayers will be led later by gill

so uh before we start uh we have a notice from our vicar andrew over to him

[Andrew Attwood:]

uh i'm sure that some of you will remember we put out some video adverts uh advertising different roles uh for linked people within pcc um one of the things that has um been a kind of a concern to me and to the wardens is the fact that um we tried to ask i think it was five individuals who had very good reasons for saying no to the role of pcc secretary we kept on asking different people for that particular role pcc secretary just a kind of administrative supportive role to help the pcc machinery work five people said they didn't feel it was right then we did the videos to try and get some uh interest from the wider church and we've had nobody step forward i feel it's my responsibility as vicar to just let you know what that means practically when i have conversations with my wardens who are brilliant a big thank you to karen and kim and roger homes in training in modernity um they are superb but one of the problems that happens when tasks aren't shared around wider is that progress slows down because we get snagged up with multiple jobs and we become the conduit for everything to be done and said it holds up effective progress i really want to make an appeal to the church to share in the task of leadership we need a pcc secretary so could you please get in touch with myself or kim or karen if something in you just wants to find out a bit more about that because you will make the leadership of this church markedly better by helping the rest of us lead well if you can do your bit so that's pcc secretary i really would like to hear from someone on that to help us out

[Anthony:]

thank you andrew yes that's important so for our service of evening prayer i hope that you've joined in before or you have the words from the syntax website or else that you'll manage anyway yes

the light and peace of jesus christ be with you
and also with you

the glory of the lord has risen upon us
let us rejoice and sing god's praise forever

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

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

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 neighbors as ourselves
in your mercy forgive what we have been
help us to remain what we are
and direct what we shall be
that we may do justly love your 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
amen

blessed are you sovereign god our light and our salvation
to you be glory and praise forever
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
blessed be god forever

the day is almost over and the evening has come
so let us pray with one heart and mind

eternal god giver of love and power
your son jesus christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his
kingdom
confirm us in this mission and help us to live the good news we proclaim
through jesus christ our lord
amen

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
amen

so before we move to our two bible readings let's sing our first hymn it's to
god be the glory

[Music: To God Be The Glory]

[Hanne:]

the first reading is taken from
1 john chapter 5.

we accept human testimony

but god's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of god which he has
given about his son

whoever believes in the son of god accepts this testimony

whoever does not believe god has made him out to be a liar because they have not
believed the testimony god has given about his son

and this is the testimony

god has given us eternal life and this life is in his son

whoever has the son has life

whoever does not have the son of god does not have life

i write these things to you who believe in the name of the son of god so that
you may know that you have eternal life

this is the word of the lord
thanks be to god

[John:]

the second reading is taken from john chapter 17 commencing to read at verse six
jesus prays for his disciples

i have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world
they were yours you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word
now they know that everything you have given me comes from you
i gave them the words and you gave me and they accepted them
they knew with certainty that i came from you they believed that you sent me
i pray for them

i am not praying for the world but for those you have given me for they are
yours

all i have is yours and all you have is mine

and glory has come to me through them

i will remain in the world no longer but they are still in the world

and i am coming to you holy father

protect them by the power of your name the name you gave me

so that they may be one as we are one

while i was with them i protected them and kept them safe

by that name you gave me none has been lost

except the one doomed to destruction so that the scripture would be fulfilled

i am coming to you now

but i say these things while i am still in the world

so that they maybe have the full measure of my joy within them

i have given them your word and the world has hated them

for they are not of the world any more than i am of the world

my prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them
from the evil one

they are not of the world even as i am not of it

sanctify them by the truth your word is truth

as you sent me into the world i have sent them into the world

for them i sanctify myself they too may be truly sanctified

this is the word of the lord

[Anthony:]

let's pray then

father god please help us to join in more and more of your life now and beyond
death

amen

did you catch the last verse that hannah read

it was from chapter 5 of john's first letter

in verse 13 there john says

i write these things to you who believe in the name of the son of god so that
you may know that you have eternal life

it's not just that you say you're a christian you tick the box it's that you
believe in jesus

you entrust yourself to jesus you know his presence his forgiveness and his
power to help

and back in verse 11 john wrote

god has given us eternal life

and this life is in his son

now eternal life doesn't just start when you die it's now and always
life with god life engaging with jesus and his father god

john doesn't highlight this but it very much seems from matthew's gospel and
john's that john and his brother james were first cousins of jesus and
mary was john's mother's sister that's why jesus said from the cross that mary
should trust john as her son and john took her into his home

it seems they emigrated later to uh near ephesus which nowadays is in turkey and um and john was writing from there to uh christians he had met in in churches and towns in that area

anyway john is pretty close to jesus

and then we read from john's gospel the same writer john and there in chapter 17 and it was on the night before he died jesus is praying for his disciples no wonder that was key for his disciple john there jesus prays now they know that everything you have given me comes from you

and in verse 11

holy father protect them by the power of your name so that they may be one as we are one

and a little later after our reading john records jesus praying for all believers in verse 21 may they also be in us that the world may believe that you sent me

john knew lots of people who came to believe in jesus but he had no idea how many more would come to believe as jesus message spread further and further across the world through the centuries

since easter we have been focusing on jesus resurrection which proves that jesus terrible death could not defeat him there is new life beyond that but it didn't take jesus back to his previous life we've been looking at his meeting with those he knew

then jesus returns to his father god

ascension day last thursday

so we entrust ourselves to god the father maker of how things are how they work what's important about life and we just entrust ourselves to jesus god in human terms buying back human life and human society into god's ways into god's kingdom and paying the price of that

and now as we wait for pentecost we entrust ourselves to the holy spirit god at work in the world all over the world on the large scale and on the small scale we entrust ourselves to this one god one god with three personas the father behind everything jesus rescuing people the spirit engaging with people as individuals and whole societies

here are two of the many ways this works out

firstly christian aid week is just coming to an end christians working together to reach out to people in extreme poverty all over the world were you able to be involved at all this year when we weren't even able to make door-to-door collections

and well you probably have uh all sorts of other practical expressions of entrusting yourself to god but here's the second one

a global prayer movement called thy kingdom come which only started five years ago did you see that in our church's weekly update or you can google thy kingdom come

these 11 days from ascension to pentecost which is next sunday

anyone taking part will pray each day to deepen their relationship with jesus christ and pray for five friends or family to come to faith in jesus and pray for the spirit to make us effective in our witness

so to sum up

god has given us eternal life in his son jesus as we entrust ourselves to him life with god now and always

how i wonder is that working out in your life
god be with you
amen

[Anthony:]

so now let us tell god how we believe in him using the apostles creed
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

now before gill leads our prayers let's sing again and encourage god to tell out
my soul

[Music: Tell Out My Soul]

[Gill:]

let us pray
a prayer for creation

god you created us to enjoy the earth
to love your world
we belong to the elements from which you created us
to destroy the earth is to destroy ourselves
we need to love the world with the love that you have for each piece of creation
you ask us to garden what is already here not to seek elsewhere for another
world or life
you ask us to see the world radiant with your presence a world transfigured a
world full of your glory
that your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven
lord we ask for your guidance and inspiration to care for our world
lord in your mercy hear our prayer

we pray for the needs of the world
where there is conflict bring peace and stability
may leaders show compassion and wisdom as they seek to find answers to conflicts
we ask you to comfort those suffering in spirit or health trapped in unstable
countries
we pray particularly for those involved in unrest in israel and gaza tigray and
ethiopia colombia and brazil
bring them comfort and peace and hope for the future
lord in your mercy hear our prayer

we pray for our nation
as we continue to wrestle with so many issues lord please help our leaders to
show integrity and courage to make good decisions
and as we all find greater freedom in tomorrow's loosening of restrictions help
us also to stay conscious of the need to move cautiously when we socialize
we pray for those areas where there are they are still struggling to reduce the
spread of the coronavirus
lord in your mercy hear our prayer

lord of the church empower by your spirit all christian people and the work of
your church in every land

give us grace to proclaim the gospel joyfully in word and deed
we thank you for the leadership of st john's church and their plan for a new
season of prayerfulness as we move back into our church buildings
help us to listen to your voice in our stillness
and move us to respond to your message of love
we remember jesus's command to love our god with all our heart and soul mind and
spirit
and to love our neighbor as ourselves
lord in your mercy hear our prayer

we pray for our local area
guide and enable all who lead and serve this community
and those on whom we depend for our daily needs
grant that we may seek the peace and welfare of this place
we pray for all who stood in local elections
give the new councillors renewed energy and wisdom to tackle the decisions that
need to be made
help all local businesses to recover from the impact of lockdown
and encourage us all to love and care for our town and our neighbors
god of love hear our prayer

prayer for those who are suffering
stretch out your hand to bring comfort wholeness and peace to all who suffer in
body mind or spirit fill us with compassion that we may be channels of your
healing love

in a moment of quiet speak the names of those you know who are suffering in body
or mind at the moment
help us to remember those whom we love but see no longer
and comfort those who are grieving loss and give them peace in the knowledge of
your love
let us commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of
god

accept these prayers for the sake of your son our savior jesus christ amen

now we have the collect for the seventh sunday after easter

oh god the king of glory
you have exalted your only son jesus christ with great triumph to your kingdom
in heaven
do not leave us comfortless but send us your holy spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to that place where our savior christ has gone before
who lives and reigns with you and the holy spirit one god in glory everlasting
amen

let us say the lord's prayer together

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

[Anthony:]

so thank you all for joining us today in this service
please join us here again next sunday for teaching about the holy spirit

let's bless each other in the words of the grace

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

so as we look to god's spirit to work in us let us sing a final hymn breathe on
us breath of god

[Music: Breathe On Us Breath Of God]

[That was a YouTube transcript with line breaks inserted by Hamish Blair]