



10th May 2020  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Of Easter  
Year A

LITURGY  
FOR  
THE TIME  
IN  
LOCKDOWN

**GATHERING WORDS:**

In this world, O God,  
you are our hope.

In this time, O God,  
you are our healer.

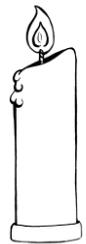
In this place, O God,  
you are our Saviour.

In this moment, O God,  
you are our friend.

Hopeful God, open us to your presence  
in this time, this place, this moment.

**LIGHTING OF A CHRIST CANDLE (optional)**

Our light may seem small and flickering, but  
it bears the flame to another and another,  
just as the flame of love is passed  
from person to person.



*Phillips Brooks-adapt.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pathway to love and grace,  
truth which frees us to move forward in hope,  
life which stretches forth  
towards expanding horizons of mercy:

**Christ for all the world,  
Jesus our friend.**

Human, just as we are human,  
yet Godly in mystery and wonder,  
opening your heart to our wandering life  
and inviting us to walk beside you in faith:

**Christ for the world,  
Jesus our friend.**

## ***THE PEACE***

God makes peace within us.  
God makes peace between us.  
The peace of God is always with us.

## ***OPENING PRAYER:***

Creator, you have shaped a place for us  
made of love and held in grace.  
It is filled with the whispers of the ancients  
who followed you and sculpted our faith.  
Breathe into this place again,  
that we may know your way,  
your truth, and your life.

## ***PRAYER OF CONFESSION:***

When we are caught up in our own importance,  
**give us a vision of Peter,  
who was humbled in Pilate's courtyard.**  
When we are lacking in self-confidence,  
**give us a vision of the disciples in the Upper Room,  
revived when Jesus walked with them.**  
When we will only see one point of view,  
**give us a vision of Saul on the Damascus Road,  
encountering Jesus, whose followers he persecuted.**  
When our loyalty wavers,  
**give us the courage of Stephen,  
who knew Jesus with him when he was killed.**

*Time of silent reflection*

## ***WORDS OF ASSURANCE***

A change in attitude, a change in perspective,  
a change from inaction,  
are all possible for those touched by the risen Christ.

**We are ready for change!**  
The pardon and peace of Christ are yours!  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## God's Word For Us Today



Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet:  
**a light to our path.**



### **LESSON: Acts 7:55-60 (NRSV)**

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

57 But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. 58 Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

60 Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

### **GOSPEL: John 14:1-14 (NRSV)**

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

4 And you know the way to the place where I am going." 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?"

The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.



Lord, may your word live in us:  
**And bear much fruit to your glory.**





*A Contemporary Reflection  
On The Word Can Be Found on The  
Anglican Church Mallorca Website*



**STATEMENT OF FAITH**

In a world of conflict,  
we believe Jesus is the way:  
in conflict Christ is the peacemaker;  
in death Christ is the life-giver;  
in darkness Christ is the light-bringer.

**The journey we've seen Jesus take,  
the words we've heard Jesus say,  
the life we've seen Jesus live,  
this is the way we will take.**

In a world of imbalance,  
we believe Jesus is the way:  
among the hungry Christ is the bread-breaker;  
among the prisoners Christ is the justice-maker;  
among the nations Christ is the faith-sharer.

**The journey we've seen Jesus take,  
the words we've heard Jesus say,  
the life we've seen Jesus live,  
this is the way we will take.**

In a world of fear,  
we believe Jesus is the way:  
in prejudice Christ is the ground-shaker;  
in racism Christ is the justice-bringer;  
in bigotry Christ is the tomb-breaker.

**The journey we've seen Jesus take,  
the words we've heard Jesus say,  
the life we've seen Jesus live,  
this is the way we will take.**

**PRAYERS FOR OTHERS:**

Let us commit all those for whom we pray to God.

Jesus, you say we should not  
let our hearts be troubled,  
but they are;  
troubled for this world, this place.

There is a place for those  
who mourn and for those who hurt,  
a place of comfort and a place of healing:

for those we have lost to illness,  
and those we have never known.  
In silence we pray for them.

**Hear us.**

There is a place for those  
who hunger and thirst,  
a place of banquets and grace:  
for those farmers trapped in unfair trade,  
those families dispossessed.  
In silence we pray for them.

**Hear us.**

There is a place for those  
imprisoned for belief and justice,  
a place of freedom and full lives:  
for those mothers of the disappeared,  
those fathers exiled.  
In silence we pray for them.

**Hear us.**

Jesus, you say we should not  
let our hearts be troubled,  
but they are;  
troubled for this world, this place.  
Hear our prayer. Amen

### ***LORD'S PRAYER:***

**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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### ***SENDING OUT:***

Be at peace.  
Hold in your heart the certainty  
that the spirit of life is with you always.  
**When our hearts are torn asunder  
or when we soar with sweet joy,  
we are never alone, never apart,  
from the spirit that resides within us  
and cherishes us always.**

## **BLESSING**

Go in courage and celebration!  
And may all the faces of the Holy God  
be turned towards you in love,  
the earth itself speak to you of its creativity,  
and who we are, each and all,  
be honoured in our authentic journeys.  
Amen

*(D McRae-McMahon)*

### **JUST A THOUGHT!**

The martyrdom of Stephen by people who were offended by what he believed invites in us a careful consideration of what Jesus is saying through the passage in John. In God's house there are many dwelling places. Why is this? Could Jesus be telling us that there are many varieties of faith, all of which are loved by God? Later on Jesus talks about recognising him and those who follow him by the works which they do. Is this the way we see each other across the divisions in church and faith, or are we focussed on what each group says or believes? Precisely because none of us have the whole truth and we are not God, we could assume that each of us may have something to teach each other. Or at least we could reflect on being more respectful.