



17th May 2020
6th Sunday Of Easter
Year A

LITURGY
FOR
THE TIME
IN
LOCKDOWN

GATHERING WORDS:

Lovers of God, draw near.
For in the sacred heart of Love
we live and move and have our being.

We leave behind the life of our days for a time
and find ourselves embraced by Spirit
who is in all and through all
and who gives life and breath
to all living things.

In this present stillness,
gathered as a community,
we realize the Spirit of Christ
is not far from each of us
and the heart of Christ beats on.

LIGHTING OF A CHRIST CANDLE (optional)

For every time we make a mistake
and we decide to start again:

we light this flame.

For every time we are lonely
and we let someone be our friend:

we light this flame.

For every time we are disappointed
and we choose to hope:

we light this flame.



CALL TO WORSHIP:

When the way is difficult,
and the path is lonely, Jesus says:

I will not leave you alone.

When the journey is smooth,
and the travelling easy, Jesus says:

I will not leave you alone.

When the horizon is far,
and the call is clear, Jesus says:

I will not leave you alone.

When the place is here,
and the time now, Jesus says:

I will not leave you alone.

THE PEACE

God makes peace within us.

God makes peace between us.

The peace of God is always with us.

OPENING PRAYER:

We open our hearts to one another
and, in these moments of stillness, become aware
of the warmth, the breath, the life we share.

The Spirit of Christ abides
in the shared space between us.

May we inhale deeply of this sacred presence
and exhale words and actions of godly love.

Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Forgiving One, unseen yet known,
we hear the world speak in power and in greed
and we hear you speak in love and grace.
May our lives be lived in the echo of your voice.

When we are persuaded by the want that leads to hurt,
the hankering that leads to greed,
the yearning that leads to selfishness,

**forgive us for following the wrong way
and may we turn again and follow you.**

When we are persuaded by the spin that becomes truth,
the belief that becomes dogma,
the fear that becomes intolerance,

**forgive us for following the wrong way
and may we turn again and follow you.**

Forgiving One, seeing and forgiving,
knowing and loving,
we turn from following the wrong way
and face you with our confessions.
Hear us.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

No one has seen God.
Yet Jesus has shown us God.
Jesus is the assurance of God's forgiveness.

**Hear our confession,
as we hear your forgiveness.**

God, known and unknown,
forgiving and full of grace,
**we turn away from the gods of our culture,
and choose to follow you. Amen**

God's Word For Us Today



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



LESSON: Acts 17:22-31 (NRSV)

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

24 The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26 From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27 so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him--though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28 For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' 29 Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. 30 While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21 (NRSV)

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 17 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.

18 "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

21 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."



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

Wherever the spirit moves,
we will move too.

May we find space large enough to dance in the streets;
be passionate enough to shout in protest;
reach wide enough to include everyone in;
have faith colourful enough to trust the adventure;
and journey long enough to change us.

Wherever the spirit moves,
we will move too.

May our ears be open enough to listen to the world;
hearts strong enough to encounter the fray;
truth trustworthy enough to speak of it openly;
grace deep enough to offer it freely;
and love long enough to endure all things.

Wherever the spirit moves,
we will move too.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS:

O God, show us your face in friend and stranger.
Engage your Spirit with our lives
in ways which give to us a new understanding
of your will for us as your people.
May we learn to restore our strength and commitment
as we receive blessings from the earth around us
and from the brave life in others.
Show us little rays of sunlight in the shadows
and small buds of newness in barren places.

Silent reflection

And now, as our lives are raised up
to the mountain tops of your love,
inspired by your word to us,
we pray for others and for ourselves:

The people pray

Delight your church here with a new dream, we pray O God.
Speak through us into the challenging life of the world
so that all people may look in wonder
at new possibilities for compassion and justice.

Take our care for others across borders
of race and clan, faith and class,
so that we become those who gather all people
into your loving arms.

Restore in us a vision of true community,
where the strong care for the weak,
and all are loved as those who are precious in your sight.
Help us to struggle with ways
of cherishing your whole creation, O God.
May our love for each other here,
and for the earth itself,
be a sign of your coming reign of grace. Amen.

SENDING OUT:

Let us embrace the wonder of this week
with expectation and imagination...

The Christ Candle is extinguished

There is hope!
Our God is a God of life,
and the power of the God's Spirit permeates all creation.

**To live according to the Spirit
is to acknowledge its presentness in all creation.**

Go in peace.

WORDS of BLESSING:

May the blessings of the Holy One
be upon us and upon this congregation.
May the memories we gathered here
give us hope for the future.
May the love we have shared
bring strength and joy to our hearts,
and the peace of this community be with us
until we meet again. Amen

Just A Thought!

The farewell messages to his disciples as he prepared to move from their sight ring down the centuries to us, as those who never saw the Christ in the flesh. You can just imagine Jesus looking on the anxious faces of his friends and telling them over and over that he will be within them and with them in every part of their lives. He is re-assuring them that, even if other people tell them he is gone, that is because they don't know the truth and they are not close enough to God to believe what is to follow. Sometimes we feel like orphans as we find it hard to find evidences of God around us in life. The gospel is that we are never left alone. It is good to encourage each other by sharing where we do see the signs of the presence of God.