

Welcome to our worship on this **Sixth Sunday of Easter, Rogation Sunday, 17th May 2020** coming from **St Mark's Church in Reigate**. Traditionally on this Sunday a group from the Parish would Beat the Bounds, in other words walk around the parish boundary, praying for the parish and the people who live and work here. We can't do it in the usual way this year, but perhaps if you go out for a walk this week, you could pause at moments to pray for the parish or use the 'Worship at home' materials that you can find on our website.

We have a guest preacher today, Revd Dr Rhys Jenkins, a former curate of mine who works as an Associate Priest in Cardiff. He will also read the first reading, the text he is using in his sermon. Our final hymn will be led by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields who have safely recorded hymns for parishes to use online whilst we are unable to meet together. These online services allow us to have preachers and musicians joining us in our worship that otherwise would not be possible. In our worship and in our private devotions, we lift up our prayers to our heavenly Father who always hears our prayers.

As you watch this broadcast, perhaps you can join in with the usual responses, the hymns and with the Lord's Prayer.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

We join together in the Hymn: **There is a Redeemer**
There is a Redeemer,
Jesus, God's own Son,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One.
Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit
till the work on earth is done.

Jesus my Redeemer,
Name above all names,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
O for sinners slain:
Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit
till the work on earth is done.

When I stand in glory
I will see his face,
and there I'll serve my King for ever
in that holy place.
Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit
till the work on earth is done.

Keith Green (1953-1982) and Melody Green (b.1946)
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Human sin disfigures the whole creation, which groans with eager longing for God's redemption. We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

You delight in creation, its colour and diversity; yet we have misused the earth and plundered its resources for our own selfish ends.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

You have brought order out of chaos, light in darkness, good out of evil, but we have preferred darkness in words and deeds which dishonour God's holy name.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

You have showered us with blessings, but we have been grudging towards others and lacking in generosity in word and deed.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon *you*,
pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins,
confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness,
and keep *you* in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We join together in singing this hymn version of the Gloria.

**Glory in the highest to the God of heaven!
Peace to all your people through the earth be given!
Mighty God and Father, thanks and praise we bring,
singing Hallelujah to our heavenly king.**

**Jesus Christ is risen, God the Father's Son!
With the Holy Spirit you are Lord alone!
Lamb once killed for sinners, all our guilt to bear,
show us now your mercy, now receive our prayer.**

**Christ the world's true Saviour, high and holy One,
seated now and reigning from your Father's throne:
Lord and God, we praise you! Highest heaven adores:
in the Father's glory, all the praise be yours!**

*Christopher Idle (b.1938) after Gloria in Excelsis
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The Collect for the Sixth Sunday of Easter.
Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

Risen Christ,
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:
help your Church to obey your command
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,
to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Our first reading, from the Acts to the Apostles chapter 17, is brought to us today by our preacher, **The Revd Dr Rhys Jenkins.**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles chapter 17

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks. They remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news of Jesus and the resurrection. Paul stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription, 'To an unknown god.' Now what you worship as something unknown, I am going to proclaim to you."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

Alleluia.

A reading from John chapter 14 verses 15-21

Hear the holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. 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. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 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."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The St Mark's Singers lead us in the **HYMN The Lord's my Shepherd**

**The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
his goodness restores my soul.
*And I will trust in you alone.
And I will trust in you alone,
for your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.***

**He guides my ways in righteousness,
and he anoints my head with oil,
and my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on his pure delights.
*Refrain***

**And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
for you are with me, and your rod and staff
are the comfort I need to know.
*Refrain***

*Stuart Townend, based on Psalm 23
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Our faith is in the living God, and so we declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

On this day that the Lord has made,
let us pray for the people he has redeemed.

Geoffrey Piejus leads us in prayer.

Lord, in your mercy:
Hear our prayer.

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

The Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields have recorded various hymns for parishes to use in their online services. They now lead us in singing the **HYMN I, the Lord of sea and sky.**

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?
*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.***

**I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?
*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.***

**I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?
*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.***

*Daniel L Schutte (b.1947)
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Let us pray:
God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

Rejoicing in God's new Creation,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and all those
whom you love, this day and always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!