

Stainton with Hemlington, Hilton, and Brookfield
Easter 6, 9th May 2021

Welcome to worship at home-

Thought for the week

Jesus said "You are my friends if you do what I command you" he also said "love one another as I have loved you"

COLLECT

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

The Acts of the Apostles. Ch10,44-end

While Peter was speaking,
the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said,
'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?'
So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Psalm 98

R The Lord has made known his victory in the sight of the nations.

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his victory; his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.
- 6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world, and the peoples with equity.

The first letter of John. Ch5.1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments.
And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood.
And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. ch15.9-17

Jesus said to his disciples:
'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the

Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

Intercessions

Faithful God, your Son Jesus Christ gave us a new commandment, of love for each other, teach us to love you in our neighbours and friends that by serving them we might also serve you.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer Mighty God, we pray for your church .

For our Christian sisters and brothers who worship around the world in small rural churches, large city churches and cathedrals and on the internet.

Bless all who lead worship, who preach and teach. Help them to inspire each one of us with the message of your salvation.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer Loving God, Help us to find the strength to love our enemies, to forgive those who wish us harm, and to pray for those who cause damage in our society.

Help us all to be a part of your healing ministry, seeking always to do what is right in your eyes

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer Merciful God, encourage us to constantly pray for those we know who are suffering in body, mind or spirit . Let us reach out to them in whatever way is best for their well being. Let us deal gently with the sorrowful, care for and comfort the sick and bring hope to the dying.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer God of compassion , your love reaches beyond the grave. We pray now for

those who have recently died; give to them the perfect joy of your eternal love and to those bereaved by their passing the consolation of Your perfect love. At the end of our days on earth be with us and with those whom we love
Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer Holy God, send us out into the world today mindful that we are the only example of your gospel of love that many people will ever know .

The [Sixth Sunday of Easter](#) is traditionally known as "Rogation Sunday," because in the church's calendar, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of next week are "Rogation Days", from the Latin word *rogare* 'to ask'. Prayers are asked for God's blessing on the land and on the planting of crops, and we are reminded that our lives and seasons are in God's hands. In rural areas the Vicar and parishioners would 'beat the bounds', processing around the parish boundaries, blessing the fields and reciting psalms and a litany. And I believe there was a glass of ale (or 2) in there too.

Almighty God, we thank you for making the earth fruitful, so that it may produce what is needed to sustain our life: Bless those who work in fields and gardens; give us seasonable weather; and grant that we may all share the fruits of the

earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THURSDAY NEXT is the FEAST OF THE ASCENSION, the 40th day after Easter Day, On that day wherever you are, whenever you have a moment , offer 'arrow prayers', rejoicing and giving thanks for the completion of God's time on earth as the man Jesus. Thank God for his teaching, his healing, his forgiving and his example of a new way of living for us all.

A prayer as we begin to ease Covid restrictions

Creator, Father God, we pray that our response to these weeks of lockdown may improve our care for all that you have made, and lead to a lifestyle actively combatting global warming, pollution, and wastage of resources.

Risen, Ascended, Glorified

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