

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER –
Family Service
SUNDAY 3 MAY 2020**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

All: and also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We have come together as the Family of God to celebrate his love and goodness in the world. .

Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray. Lift up our hearts to worship you in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord .

Amen

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading: Acts 2 42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

For the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hymn – The Lord’s My Shepherd - Stuart Townsend

Our Family choir would have sung this today including the descant!



Gospel: John 10 1-10 - Jesus is the good shepherd and the sheep gate

‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again, Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ

Sermon



Children's Resources: [John 10 1-10 children.pdf](#)

Prayers

In our prayers today,
we put all thoughts and worries and hopes
into the hands of God.
You may like to hold your own hands
in front of you as you pray.

We place into the hands of God
the life of this church,
the people around us,

We pray for our church buildings which are closed just as people need your stillness and peace, may the community still know your presence through the kindness and love shared to our neighbors. We remember we are your flock and we listen for your call to direct and guide us.

We place into the hands of God
our difficulties and frustrations and our hopes and our worries about the future. We pray for those who are worried about finances, or are unable to be with loved ones.. Comfort all those who are isolating and scared at this time may they know your presence and feel your love surround them.

We place into the hands of God,
all people in the world who bring God's love to others, we pray especially for the medical and support staff of the NHS, for all the keyworkers that are keeping the country running and outing themselves at risk to save others.

We pray for our scared world as the Corona viruses continues to spread. We thank you for our skilled scientists to are working hard to find a cure. We pray that they are given wisdom at this difficult time.

We pray for those who we have loved but no longer see, in the silence we lift them before you and remember those whose anniversaries fall at this time. May they be at peace in your loving kingdom.

Loving God, as you have blessed us,
make us a blessing to your world. Amen

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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 for ever.
Amen.**

Hymn: Christ Be Our Light - a hymn sung regularly by the children in school and church.



Conclusion

Lord, you run with us in our energy and carry us in our weariness; help us to recognise your companionship in our journey through life. Give us grace and sensitivity so to walk with others on the way that they too will find themselves walking with you, Jesus our Saviour and Friend. Amen.

Blessing

May the road rise to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

We hope you are enjoying the online services which aim to bring the church community together and keep the momentum of faith alive for all generations. As a rural parish church, we rely heavily on donations to help maintain our beautiful buildings. With our churches closed we are not able to receive donations via the collection plate, however if you would still like to support the church, please use the QR code :



St Michael's Church



St Mary's Church

or alternatively you can pay direct to

*St Michaels Church; **Sort Code** 601727 **A/c** 27611272*

*St Mary's Church; **Sort Code** 601728 **A/c** 03428508*

We are incredibly grateful for any donations -thank you for your kind support and generosity

God Bless