

**United Benefice of St Michael and St Mary**  
**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020**

The Lord be with you  
**And also with 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.

**Reading: Acts 17, 22-31 - Paul speaks in front of the Areopagus**

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 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. 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, 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. 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, 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. 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.”

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. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 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.’

**Hymn – O Jesus, I have promised**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07hhz4LRFjM>

O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
be thou forever near me,  
my Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle

if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me hear thee speaking  
in accents clear and still  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will.  
O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
O speak and make me listen,  
thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised  
to all who follow thee,  
that where thou art in glory  
there shall thy servant be;  
and, Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my Friend.

**Psalm 66, 7 to end - Praise for God's goodness to Israel**

Bless our God, O you peoples;  
make the voice of his praise to be heard;

Who holds our souls in life,  
and will not allow our feet to slip.

For you, O God, have proved us;  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

You brought us into the snare;  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water;  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

I will enter your house with burnt-offerings and will pay you my vows,  
which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams;  
I will give you oxen and goats.

Come and listen, all you who fear God,  
and I will tell you what he has done for me.

I called out to him with my mouth,  
and his praise was on my tongue.

If I had found evil in my heart,  
the Lord would not have heard me,

But in truth God has heard me;  
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,  
nor withheld his love from me.

**Anthem: *I give to you a new commandment - Peter Nardone (Contemporary)***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0L8WV7mXAo>

I give unto you a new commandment  
that you love one another as I have loved you.

Ubi caritas est vera, Deus ibi est,  
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.  
Exsultemus, et in ipso jucundemur.  
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.

Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen

*[Where charity truly is, God is there.  
Christ's love has gathered us into one.  
Let us rejoice and be pleased in him.  
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.*

*And may we love each other  
with a sincere heart. Amen.]*

**Gospel: John 14 15-21 – ‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments’**

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 forever. 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.”

**Sermon by Revd Neil Vigers**



**Prayers**

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord

Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love

Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer**

We pray for those in most need in our own families and neighborhood, thinking of the elderly, the housebound and those in hospital or hospice. We pray for all carers and visitors whether family members, volunteers or health care professionals and especially for those who minister to people near the end of life's journey through the hospice movement - for they do your work and so we ask for them your gifts of patience, compassion and understanding.

We pray for those that we know who are sick, lonely or in some special need at this time as we share a brief moment of silence together as we name them in our hearts....

Lord in your mercy... **hear our prayer**

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World, a light which no darkness can quench. We remember before God those we love but no longer see, in the silence we lift them before you... may the light of Christ which eternally shines bring hope for you turn our darkness into light; in your light shall we see light.

**Merciful Father accept these prayers  
for the sake of your son  
our saviour Jesus Christ  
Amen**

## **Blessing**

The Lord bless us and watch over us;  
The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us;  
The Lord look kindly upon us and give us peace. Amen

Our worship has now ended, and our service now begins...  
Go in the light and peace of Christ  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Melvin's Voluntary**

*Postlude in D minor - C V Stanford (1852-1924)*

*[Daniel Hyde playing the chapel organ of King's College, Cambridge]*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYeU65Q!3ns>

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 codes :



**St Michael's Church**



**St Mary's Church**

or alternatively you can pay direct to

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

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God Bless