

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
(10.05.2020)**

**GREETING**

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**WELCOME**

**APPROACH**

Lord Jesus  
in those days of wonder after Easter,  
you called Mary and Peter by their names,  
and they recognised you;  
and we too draw near to hear our names  
spoken in love  
and to know you again.

You broke bread with your followers  
on the road to Emmaus,  
and in the blessing, they recognised you;  
and we too come to share your blessing  
and your broken life,  
and to know you again.

You spoke peace to your disciples,  
showed them the marks on your hands,  
sent them out to bear witness to your risen life;  
and we too come seeking peace,  
seeking to bear witness  
and to be sent out renewed.

Come among us now,  
that we may recognise you  
in each other,  
and together know your healing and hope.  
**Amen.**

## **CONFESSION**

If we have fallen into despair,  
**Lord, forgive us.**

If we have failed to hope in you,  
**Lord, forgive us.**

If we have been fearful of death,  
**Lord, forgive us.**

If we have forgotten the victory of Christ,  
**Lord, forgive us.**

*(Silence)*

## **WORDS OF COMFORT & COMMITMENT**

Lord, let us not dwell in the past,  
nor worry about the future.  
We cannot undo what is done,  
we cannot foresee what will come.  
Let us instead dwell in your peace,  
love and be loved,  
heal and be healed.  
We give the past to you and rest in your forgiveness.  
We give the future to you and rest in your love.  
We live in your light, open our eyes so that we may see.  
We live in your love, let your love flow through us,  
to the fulfilment of your kingdom.  
**Amen**

## **COLLECT**

Risen Christ,  
your wounds declare your love for the world  
and the wonder of your risen life:  
give us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## **READINGS**

### **Acts 7: 55-60**

But filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

### **John 14: 1-14**

Jesus said, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of

the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

## **REFLECTION**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us pray to the Lord,  
who is our refuge and stronghold.

For the health and well-being of our nation,  
for our health service and its workers,  
that all who are fearful and anxious  
may be at peace and free from worry.

For the isolated and housebound,  
that we may be alert to their needs,  
and care for them in their vulnerability.

For our homes and families,  
our schools, teachers, children and young people,  
that there may be glimpses of your grace in times of difficulty.

For a blessing on our local community,  
that it may be a place of trust and friendship,  
where all are known and cared for.

*We hold before God all those who have asked for our prayers –  
those in need, the sick and the dying.  
We remember, too, those who have died,  
and we pray for their loved ones.*

We are not people of fear:  
we are people of courage.  
We are not people who protect our own safety:  
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.  
We are not people of greed:  
we are people of generosity.

We are your people God,  
giving and loving,  
wherever we are,  
whatever it costs  
For as long as it takes  
wherever you call us.

*Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference*

## **THE PEACE**

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said:  
'Peace be with you!'  
Then they were glad when they saw the Lord.

Alleluia! The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you. Alleluia!**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

As our Saviour taught his disciples, we pray:

**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.**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us affirm our faith together:

**We believe in God  
whose breath brings the gift of life;  
whose creativity makes newness out of nothing;**

**whose love sent us the Christ;  
whose solidarity accompanies our deaths;  
whose power frees us to the resurrection;  
whose Spirit liberates us from powerlessness;  
whose grace stands under all our being;  
whose unity calls us to be the Church  
and to live out the hope of the Kingdom.**

## **BLESSING**

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,  
wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness,  
protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing  
at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing  
once again into our doors.

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

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