



**DURHAM
CATHEDRAL**

THE SHRINE OF ST CUTHBERT

Praying Together

*during the week beginning Sunday 10 May:
The Fifth Sunday of Easter*

During this time of great anxiety and uncertainty, we want to stay in touch with our regular worshippers and indeed with everyone who is associated with the Cathedral family.

This is particularly important to us at a time when, following the Church of England's instructions, public worship at the Cathedral has been suspended. The residential clergy are still saying the Daily Offices at home or, from Monday 11 May, from church, and they are being live-streamed via the cathedral website where there is a link that takes you to the Cathedral's Facebook page (you don't need a Facebook account).

We hope that this pamphlet will provide you with important worship and prayer resources for use at home as well as a reminder of how to keep in touch with us, especially if you have particularly needs. Please be assured that you are firmly in our thoughts and prayers, and please pray for us at this very difficult and worrying time.

Gospel

John 14. 1-14

Jesus said to his disciples, '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.'

Thought for the Day

by The Reverend Canon Charlie Allen

Acts 7.55-end John 14.1-14

I don't know about you, but I have been giving thanks daily for the beautiful weather during this season of lockdown. What a difference it has made. As a family, we've spent as much of each day as possible in the garden.

We've planted seeds and delighted in looking each morning to see how much they have grown. We've discovered a stash of walnuts forgotten by the resident squirrel, and have been leaving one out for him each evening, watching excitedly through the window as he comes to find it and crack it open. We've potted out plants, watched fruit trees burst into life, and rejoiced at potatoes sprouting in the vegetable patch. We've enjoyed the changing of the season too – sometimes getting up early to watch the sun rise, or singing compline in the garden as the sun goes down.

To have the gift of time to slow down and be present in, and attentive to, God's creation has been an unexpected blessing during these challenging days.

On Friday we celebrated the feast day of St Julian of Norwich, the 14th Century English mystic. Julian was someone who knew a lot about the revelation of God in his creation. She looked at a hazelnut resting in the palm of her hand and in it glimpsed the divine, rejoicing that even this small object found its beginning in the love of God.

This morning's Gospel reading reminds us that just as our beginning is found in the love of God, so that love claims us at the end of our time here on earth with just the same hope and intensity and joy.

In this glimpse into Jesus' dialogue with his disciples, he reassures them as they fear separation from him. *"Do not let your hearts be troubled"*, he says. Jesus encourages

them to have courage, reminding them that they abide with one another in death as in life.

It's a truth embodied in our first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, where we hear of the events leading to Stephen's death – moments in which he forgives those seeking to stone him, and in which he finds himself gazing into the wonder of heaven itself.

To find our beginning and our ending caught up in the love of God changes the landscape around us. We begin to see the fabric of our lives differently. We glimpse the wonder, the joy, the giftedness of each day, of each moment. And we find peace – a sense of belonging in a heavenly home – a freedom that enables us to tread lightly and generously here on earth.

Let's return to Julian of Norwich and that hazelnut. In her work, *Revelations of Divine Love*, she looked at the hazelnut as it sat in the palm of her hand and wrote these words:

*"In this little thing I saw three properties. The first is that God made it.
The second is that God loves it. And the third, that God keeps it".*

As it is with the hazelnut, so it is with you and me. God abides in us, and we in him. And there, in a nutshell, is the joy of Easter.

Alleluia!

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray to the Lord, who has conquered death.

Hear us, risen Lord,
our resurrection and our life.

Jesus, bread from heaven,
you satisfy the hungry with good things:
grant us a share with all the faithful departed
in the banquet of your kingdom.

Hear us, risen Lord,
our resurrection and our life.

Jesus, the light of the world,
you gave the man born blind the gift of sight:
open the eye of faith
and bring us from darkness
to your eternal light and glory.

Hear us, risen Lord,
our resurrection and our life.

Jesus, Son of the living God,
you summoned your friend Lazarus from death to life:
raise us at the last to full and eternal life with you.

Hear us, risen Lord,
our resurrection and our life.

Jesus, crucified Saviour,
in your dying you entrusted each to the other,
Mary your mother and John your beloved disciple:
sustain and comfort all who mourn.

Hear us, risen Lord,
our resurrection and our life.

Jesus, our way and truth and life,
you drew your disciple Thomas from doubt to faith:
reveal the resurrection faith to the doubting and the lost.

Hear us, risen Lord,
our resurrection and our life.

May God in his infinite love and mercy
bring the whole Church,
living and departed in the Lord Jesus,
to a joyful resurrection
and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom.
Amen.

For those who are ill

Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

An Easter Hymn

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
Your sweetest notes employ
The Paschal victory to hymn
In strains of holy joy.

How Judah's Lion burst his chains,
And crushed the serpent's head;
And brought with him from death's domains
The long-imprisoned dead.

From hell's devouring jaws the prey
Alone our leader bore;
His ransomed hosts pursue their way
Where he hath gone before.

Triumphant in his glory now
His sceptre ruleth all,
Earth, heaven, and hell before him bow,
And at his footstool fall.

While joyful thus his praise we sing,
His mercy we implore,
Into his palace bright to bring
And keep us evermore.

All glory to the Father be,
All glory to the Son,
All glory, Holy Ghost, to thee
While endless ages run. Alleluia! Amen.

*St Fulbert of Chartres
translated by Robert Campbell*

John Donne: Holy Sonnets or Divine Meditations

In this sonnet, John Donne (1572-1631) addresses Death itself and—almost dismissively— indicates that death is not a victory over the soul but a temporary rest from world-weariness for those whom death carries away. The resurrection of Christ from the dead provides a pathway from life in this world to new life in the world to come. Christ's resurrection effectively makes death itself die.

Sonnet 10

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou are not so;
For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow
Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.
From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,
Much pleasure; then from thee much more must flow,
And soonest our best men with thee do go,
Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery.
Thou art slave to fate, chance, kings, and desperate men,
And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell,
And poppy, or charms can make us sleep as well
And better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then?
One short sleep past, we wake eternally,
And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.

Contact details for The Reverend Canon Michael Everitt

Address: 15 The College, Durham, DH1 3EQ
Email: michael.everitt@durhamcathedral.co.uk
Telephone: 0191 384 0164

A Prayer for use during the Coronavirus outbreak

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. Amen.

A prayer of Karl Barth:

O Lord God, our Father, you are the light that can never be put out; and now you give us light that shall drive away all darkness. You are love without coldness, and you have given us such warmth in our hearts that we can love all when we meet. You are the life that defies death, and you have opened for us the way that leads to eternal life. None of us is a great Christian; we are all humble and ordinary. But your grace is enough for us. Arouse in us that small degree of joy and thankfulness of which we are capable, to the timid faith which we can muster, to the cautious obedience which we cannot refuse, and thus to the wholeness of life which you have prepared for all of us through the death and resurrection of your Son. Do not allow any of us to remain apathetic or indifferent to the wondrous glory of Easter, but let the light of our risen Lord reach every corner of our dull hearts. Amen.

The next issue of *Praying Together*
will be published on Monday 18 May