



Church at Home 9
For Abridge
Sunday 10th May 2020
*'Do not let your hearts be troubled.
You believe in God; believe also in me.'*
John 14:1



We are still in the Easter season. Today we go back to words spoken by Jesus to his disciples at the Last Supper. After the resurrection, his followers remembered these words and they took on new depth and meaning. They began to recognise that the Jesus they had spent three years with, had shown them the **Truth** about God, and that the cross had opened up the **Way** to **Life** in all its fulness.

[Thank you for continuing to share your Church at Home. May the link feel real and supportive as we worship together, though apart.

If you know of someone in the church family who is alone for this act of worship, you might like to give them a call and arrange to share this time with them.

*The Church of England has also recently opened **a free phone line with hymns, short reflections and prayers** you might like to access: 0800 804 8044]*

Opening thoughts: God is my rescuer

An old man turned to a priest and said "Why does God want to rescue me? I know what I'm like; all the mistakes I have made; my anger, my greed, my arrogance." The priest replied "It's because you're precious to him".

Perhaps you're not sure how you are feeling at the moment? Maybe you're feeling fearful, or sad that so many people have been affected by the virus; maybe you're feeling guilty that you're okay; or maybe helpless, not sure what you can do; or worried about how you're going to pay the bills with no money coming in.



Jesus says: *'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.'*

1. At the start our service, we pause to reflect on the past week:

The Lord is here. His Spirit is with us

Pause

For the times we have chosen our way and not followed **your Way....good Lord, forgive us.**

For the times we have compromised on **your Truth** and gone after lies....**good Lord, forgive us.**

For the times we have lived life selfishly and not received **Your life** in all its fulness....**good Lord, forgive us.**

Jesus said: I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Thank you Father that through Jesus we can come home to you, welcomed, forgiven and made new.

2. A special prayer for today:-

Lord Jesus,

You invite us to entrust

Our troubled hearts into your safekeeping,

Our restless spirits into your loving care,

Our puzzled minds into your welcoming presence.

As we do so,

May we find our way home

Into the reality of the Living God,

Through your cross and resurrection,

Which is our only hope. Amen

Listen to or sing along with: [Spirit of the living God , fall afresh on me](#)

3. The Bible readings today are: Acts 7: 55-60; 1 Peter 2: 2-10; John 14:1-14

You may want to read one or all of them a few times. Note what themes spring out, or a particular word from God for you. You may want to write that down or underline it in your Bible. Here are a few thoughts from the passages to get you started:

We are all precious to God and God has a place for each of us in this world and the next. We can trust the promises God has made to us. Even when we go through seasons of pain and confusion, our times are in God's hands.

You might want to use this prayer based around Psalm 69:

Dear God, save me. Deep waters surround my soul and I can't find a foothold. I'm sinking as life's floods engulf me. I'm weary and exhausted from crying out for help. I can't see you, Lord, for the tears that have swelled my eyes. You already know the sin in my heart; I give it to you. You know that the enemy tries to destroy me with lies. Even the people I love sometimes misunderstand me. But no matter what is said to me, or about me, my prayer is to you alone. Lord, hear me in your mercy. With your never-ending, reckless love, delivered in your perfect timing, pull me from the deep and rescue me. Don't let the waves overwhelm me, or the deep waters engulf me, or the pit of death devour me. Answer my prayer, O Lord, for your love never fails. Because of your great mercy, you never give up on me. Don't hide from me; I desperately need to hear from you. Draw near to my soul and redeem it. For I long to praise your salvation with a thankful heart. Amen

4. To help you explore the story further, there is a **reflection sheet** and also some **all-age activities**, that you might like to use, if you have access to the Internet. You can find these resources on the websites of the two churches and here are the links:

www.lambournechurch.com

www.abridgeevangelicalchurch.org

5. For our prayers, and in the light of the resurrection of Christ, let us remember:

- The government and its advisors as they plan how the lockdown can be eased
- Every family and individual that has lost someone they love to this virus.
- All key workers who continue to put themselves at risk to save lives. You may know of some by name for whom you can pray.
- Those who are being treated in hospital this very day
- Those known to us overseas who are facing all this, with fewer resources and less national support

Add any particular people and situations that The Lord brings to your mind as you have been praying. End with our family prayer, **The Lord's Prayer**.

Suggested Hymns in different traditions: [Lord we lift your name on high](#) [One way Jesus \(Hillsong\)](#) [Jesus lover of my soul](#)

6. End your time of church-at-home by saying out loud the words of **The Grace**, reaching out your hands to include in your imagination all those you know and love, who live here in the village.

Martyn Payne's church at home focus table
(with apologies for the messy bookshelves!)

