

**Church at Home**  
**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021**  
**The Fifth Sunday of Lent.**

Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord.  
Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart—  
they do no wrong but follow his ways. Psalm 119 v1-3

I wonder if Mothering Sunday was a sense of joy or sadness last week. It is one of those bitter sweet events in the Christian calendar. If I look forward to next week it is a sense of joy as Jesus is made very very welcome on Palm Sunday and then later in the week, we have sadness followed by the joy of His resurrection on Easter Sunday. That covers the past and the future but what about the present. This particular period of Lent has raised many questions about who I am and what do I do. Those of us who have been doing the Lent course "Caring for Creation" have been learning and appreciating what our actions have on God's world of today (Present) and more importantly tomorrow (Future).

WWJD – I wonder if you have seen that mnemonic before? It is something that I try to keep in mind. What Would Jesus Do (WWJD). The readings this week I have found to be a personal challenge. We all like to act and behave as perfect Christians and be a shining example to our neighbours – or do we! To me this is a goal, it is something to aim at. I hope that it is your goal. One thing to remember, "you may be the only Christian person that your friends / acquaintances / people you meet once, know. It is on your interaction and action that the whole of Christianity could be based. We have a great responsibility!

**The Bible readings for this Sunday:**

[Jeremiah 31:31-34](#) -- Jeremiah, the prophet of the new covenant, predicts Judah's Babylonian exile and ultimate restoration under the Davidic Messiah.

[Psalm 51:1-13](#) -- A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

or [Psalm 119:9-16](#) -- How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.

[Hebrews 5:5-10](#) -- demonstrates the absolute supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ as revealer and mediator of God's grace.

[John 12:20-33](#) -- Jesus predicts His death. John presents Jesus as the Word, the Messiah and the incarnate Son of God, who has come to reveal the Father and bring eternal life to all who believe in him.

**Before we sing let's quieten our hearts**

As we enter prayer now, we pause to be still; to breath slowly; to re-centre our scattered senses upon the presence of God.

*Pause for a while and reflect.*

**A Confession.**

Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Lent.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found. Amen

## Suggested hymns:

[Come Now is the time to Worship.](#)  
[At the name of Jesus](#)  
[When I survey the Wonderous Cross](#)

[Here I am to Worship \(Hillsong\)](#)  
[And can it be](#)  
[Lift High the Cross](#)

## First Thoughts on the Gospel.

Some Greeks walked directly up to the disciple Philip and requested, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

So do we. We too wish to see Jesus.

These words, "we wish to see Jesus," are inscribed on the fronts of many pulpits around the world, reminding us that the presence of Jesus is offered every Sunday to those who yearn to be a friend of Jesus. In some churches rather than being inscribed on the exterior in some sort of intricate, wood carved detail, the words actually could not be seen unless you entered into the pulpit, you would see the words etched into the wood on the surface right where the preacher would place his or her sermon manuscript. The first thing that the preacher would see when they entered the pulpit were the words, "we want to see Jesus."



I am assuming that the pulpit designer was probably not a pastor, but rather an everyday Christian who made their living by building stuff with their hands, much in the same way that Jesus did before he became a preacher.

But, this everyday Christian had a reminder, a biblical reminder even, for those preachers who would dare grace that pulpit of his. His reminder was that the preacher should not simply tell us about Jesus. Rather, the preacher is to show us Jesus.

"We want to see Jesus," the pulpit designer begged the preacher.

Reflect on the fact that we want to see Jesus and listen to the following Hymn.

[Open our Eyes Lord, we want to see Jesus](#)

## For our prayers, let us remember:

- People who have been isolated and may start to see loved ones.
- People who are sick or mourning for loved ones.
- People who have shown us love and care.
- Teachers who work hard to make school a safe and Covid-free environment for all.
- Our churches making plans to return to 'face-to-face' church around Easter; and for creative plans to tell the story of Easter in the village
- Families struggling to care for children in war-torn and needy parts of our world.

Allow the Holy Spirit to enter your mind as you pray and end with the, **The Lord's Prayer**. Finally say **The Grace** for people in the whole world.

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## **A reflection on the Gospel.**

[Video](#) of the Gospel from John

[Parable](#) of The Grain of Wheat

[Sermon on the Gospel](#) – Is it about US or is about JESUS, and a new meaning.

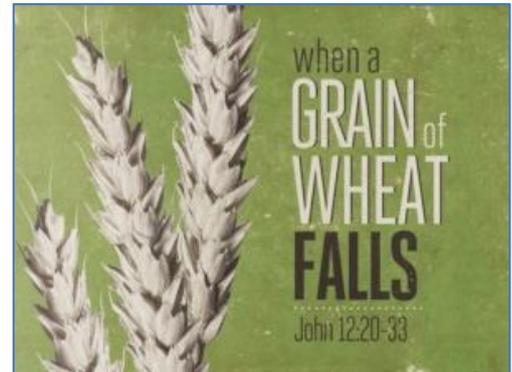
### **Reflection:**

After reading the Gospel, I can see parallels in my everyday life.

Jesus mentioned, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified," which makes me reflect that Judgement Day is close, but I do not fear it because I walk with the Lord. Those that serve Jesus and are loyal servants to him will receive great honour from the Father. For no person is free from judgment.

Jesus' comment on the grain and its death resonates a lot with me because I am a firm believer that all living creatures that die serve a greater purpose for something else to be born. When plants die and fall to the ground, eventually, they become nutrients and soil for other plants. The saying "From dust you are and to dust you shall return" when we receive ashes from the minister aligns with this.

The life I live as a Christian is very important to me, as is how others see me. If as a Christian I don't set a personal example, how can I expect others to do the same. I will add that I don't always get it right and sometimes get it horribly wrong. The decisions that I make, the way I treat others, and the direction that I walk, is the resemblance of my own lifestyle and my faith. I enjoy belonging to the wider Christian society and because I have a purpose in life, I know that God has a plan for me. I just have to listen to his words in prayer and follow in his steps. The important part is listening and communication. Prayer is central to our faith.



### **Reflection Questions**

- How are you connected to Jesus?
- Does your life reflect the teachings of Jesus, if so, how do you walk like him?
- How would you feel if death came knocking, would you be ready to go?

### **Some thoughts and prayers.**

'Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.' In my life, what needs to fall into the earth and die in order for me to bear much fruit?

With Holy Week fast approaching, Jesus is here speaking in the shadow of the valley of death. We remind ourselves that without Good Friday there could be no Easter Sunday.

The humble wish of the Greeks is to see Jesus. Lord that is my wish also. That is why I give this time to prayer. May I see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, as the ancient prayer puts it.

Jesus, in this time of prayer I imagine you putting a grain of wheat into my hand. You and I chat about what it can mean. When I next eat bread, it will have a deeper significance for me. When I share in the Eucharist, I will try to be aware that it means your own life, which is blessed, broken, shared out and consumed for the life of the world.

In every death, there is life - this is the big message of Lent and of Easter.



A Grain of Wheat to colour.

[Family Friendly reflective Story](#) Please click the link.

