

## **WORSHIP AT HOME - 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

### **WHEREVER WE ARE God is with us**

**We come with joy to meet our risen Lord Jesus. We  
come with all creation to praise and glorify His  
beautiful and blessed name.**

#### **And we sit sing or say together**

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One is here;

Come bow before Him now  
with reverence and fear.

In Him no sin is found,  
we stand on holy ground;

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around;

He burns with holy fire,  
with splendour He is crowned.

How awesome is the sight,  
our radiant King of light!

Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place;

He comes to cleanse and heal,  
to minister His grace.

No work too hard for Him,  
in faith receive from Him;

Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place.

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#### **And so we pray together:**

Gracious God we thank you that we can believe  
in your presence with us in our homes, open  
spaces, and wherever we are right now.

Gracious God, we praise and adore you. For the  
gift of creation, seen all around us in the beauty  
of springtime. For flowers, trees in bloom, for  
new life emerging and warm sunny days. Help  
us to be stewards of your creation, help us to  
see you in all created beings and things.

We thank you for the awesome gift of your Son,  
Jesus, who humbly walked this earth in fully  
human form. Jesus who, because he was not  
willing to stand down from all He taught and  
believed, was crucified. Jesus who taught us  
right to the end about forgiveness, turning the

other cheek, loving unconditionally, giving  
totally. We praise you for His resurrection and  
the gift of the Holy Spirit who walks alongside  
us and guides and sustains us through our  
every waking hour.

We are sorry Lord, for the times we have  
walked from your way, we turn back to you  
now, and hear your word, "You are forgiven,  
follow me once again". Thank you Merciful  
God. We pray through the name of Jesus. Amen.

We follow on from last weeks' Gospel  
passage and read:-

#### **John 20: vs 24-29 Jesus and Thomas**

*But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of  
the twelve, was not with them when Jesus  
came. So the other disciples told him, 'We  
have seen the Lord.' But he said to them,  
'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands,  
and put my finger in the mark of the nails and  
my hand in his side, I will not believe.'*

*A week later his disciples were again in the  
house, and Thomas was with them. Although  
the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood  
among them and said, 'Peace be with  
you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger  
here and see my hands. Reach out your  
hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but  
believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord  
and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you  
believed because you have seen me?  
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet  
have come to believe.'*



#### **A REFLECTION**

Poor Thomas, famously known as 'doubting  
Thomas' from the passage in John's gospel.  
The name hasn't left him. Yet remembering  
the events leading up to the crucifixion,  
Peter denied Jesus and all the disciples  
deserted him, none were true to their word.  
The disciples have already seen Jesus, but  
Thomas was missing. I feel sorry for him, this  
life-changing event and he missed it, not

only that but he questioned whether it had actually happened.

Doubt is a very human emotion, we all experience it at times. Doubt our abilities, doubt when God is asking us to do something, doubt what others tell us. Yet isn't this doubt a positive thing. I have always doubted my own abilities, therefore when I was at college I was always the first to ask for help, or for clarity about something I didn't understand - often to the relief of others who didn't want to ask for fear of being made foolish - I still do the same now.

Doubt need not always be seen as a negative emotion, it leads to questions, and ultimately to answers to those questions. Thomas doubted that the other disciples had seen Jesus, but when he finally saw Jesus, he didn't need to touch Jesus to know, he called him "My Lord and my God", he recognised who Jesus really was – God.

Jesus told the disciples that those who believe without seeing are blessed. For some of us it might not take very long to believe, while for others it takes years of questioning before getting answers. When we reach the point of belief we can and will, with assurance, recognise and call Jesus "My Lord and my God".

Take a time to sit quietly for a while.....



### **Let's pray together with God.**

We pray for our world, for countries ravaged by war and natural disasters. We pray for those countries struggling with Covid who have little or no vaccines.

We pray for our country, for those making decisions, give them wisdom and courage to act wisely. We pray for those who are on the frontline, who are exhausted from the effects of the pandemic, give them rest.

We pray for the bereaved, especially those who haven't been able to grieve with or for loved ones.

We pray for those still struggling with illness and weariness. We think of those who are anxious and afraid to go out, those who have been isolated for so long and those who are lonely.

We pray for our churches, worshipping in other ways. Help us to go forward in the way you lead us, not to just return to what we have always done. Help us to look for what you want us to do, who you want us to support.

We pray for ourselves. Help us to trust you to supply everything we need in our lives. Through our risen, redeeming Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer *Our Father .....***

**Our offering We offer now all we have laid aside and offered, believing you will bless and use all we give for your good purposes AMEN**

### **AND NOW WE SING OR SAY TOGETHER...**

To God be the glory! great things He hath done!  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

***Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!***

***Let the earth hear His voice!***

***Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!***

***Let the people rejoice!***

***O come to the Father through Jesus the Son;***

***And give Him the glory great things He hath done!***

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!  
To every believer the promise of God;  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,

And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son:  
But purer and higher and greater will be  
Our wonder, our worship, when Jesus we see!

### **A prayer of blessing**

*Peace be with you, dear brothers and sisters, and may God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you, and remain with you, with those you love and with those you pray for, this day and forever more. AMEN*