

The Parish Church of St John the Evangelist

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9th August 2020

Welcome to our Family Service at Home

The family at St. John's extends a warm welcome to everyone wherever you are at this time.

Even in our homes we can share our celebration of family life with all of God's people.

For links and more information please use the Church Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-John-the-Evangelist-242471512488973/>

and the Church website: <http://www.stjohnscrowborough.org.uk/> :

Our **Community life page** is on our website with news, pictures, activities and quizzes

The **Children and families page** has this service and other resources for you to use.

email Phil if you want to contribute pictures, ideas and puzzles on morrip57@gmail.com

At the start of our service we say:

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

Amen.

Jesus had just fed the 5,000 followers and he then sent his disciples ahead on a boat so he could pray alone. Then this happens.....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6VnZZOFkRU>

Jesus appeared when the disciples were frightened and lost in a storm. Jesus met them, calmed the waves and gave them hope. They should have known he was God's Son but only in his presence did they have real faith.

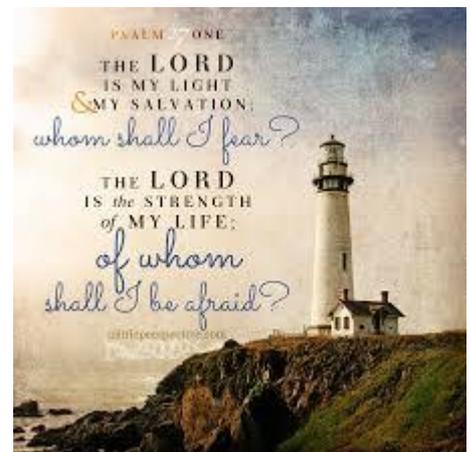
The presence of Jesus in our lives strengthens our faith in him and we turn to God when things are good and even when things are difficult.

Song: We praise the God who is with us

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMBDWG9tseU>

Prayer: Taken from Psalm 27.

Hear us, LORD, when we call to you.
Be merciful and answer our prayers
When you said, "Come worship me,"
I answered, "I will come, LORD."
Teach us, LORD, what you want us to do,
and lead us all along a safe path,
We trust in the Lord when we face danger.
In our faith we do not despair.
We trust in the LORD all our days
for he will bless us. **Amen**



Sadly, we don't always trust God but only put our trust in ourselves, and we shut God out of our lives. When we confess to God, we turn back to him and place Jesus in the centre of our lives

Confession:

Dear heavenly Father

We turn back to you because we know,
you will deliver us from our distress.

God, you will bring us out of darkness and fear.

As a father has compassion on his children,
so is the Lord merciful towards those who fear him.

Forgive us all the things that we have done
in our thoughts and in what we have done.

And in faith let all that is within me bless your holy name.

Through Jesus your Son and the Holy Spirit who is alive in us

We ask you to raise us into your kingdom

Amen

Listen to this song: When we turn to Jesus you will raise us up into your loving kingdom

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIHUKY3jBv0>

While you listen imagine Jesus is here lifting you into his arms so you are safe again.

Song: One day we will see God's Kingdom clearly. But for now, we can catch a glimpse of what our new life would be like where God's love is at the heart of everything..

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljUzTMTgSEc>

The Gospel of St. Matthew: Chapter 14

Then Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people away. After sending the people away, he went up a hill by himself to pray. When evening came, Jesus was there alone; and by this time the boat was far out in the lake, tossed about by the waves, because the wind was blowing against it.

Between three and six o'clock in the morning Jesus came to the disciples, walking on the water. When they saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said, and screamed with fear.

Jesus spoke to them at once. "Courage!" he said. "It is I. Don't be afraid!"

Then the disciples in the boat worshiped Jesus. "Truly you are the Son of God!" they exclaimed.



When Jesus walked on the water towards his disciples he said "Do not be afraid" and they praised him.. **When we look to Jesus and welcome him into our lives – What room does fear have?**

Watch this clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZlr85RxlIn0>

Give thanks to Jesus for meeting our fears and surrounding us with his love.





Jesus fed 5,000 with just some bread and fish; he then walked on the waves and calmed the storm. The Gospels are full of Jesus' miracles but even so his disciples didn't always have enough faith in Jesus at the time. But after the resurrection of Jesus and with the coming of the Holy Spirit his followers not just believed but lived a different life because they knew for sure Jesus, God's Son, was there with them – all the time.

Today our faith helps us to remember that in every day of our lives that Jesus is with us.

That's a miracle for us – even in the darkest times, we just have to look to Jesus and fear no more.

And when we are loved by Jesus, we take on his character: St Paul's letter to the Colossians tells us:

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience".

As Jesus called his disciples to be like him, they met together sharing all they had and looking after each other. Jesus' love was a visible centre of their lives together and there was no fear or hurt. When we follow Jesus, we meet each other in church or families and we too are blessed and we also bless others as we share the love and compassion of Jesus. And together we can encourage, help and strengthen one another.



Song: We take heart in God's love

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwtN3qwDZJI>

And we can do this because for all of us:

Jesus rescued us by going to the cross and rising from the dead.

Jesus, alive and real today, has his hands out to us every day when we call him

Jesus cares for you, me and our friends and family much more than we can know

Jesus loves us because that is the foundation stone of God's Kingdom

If in our families, in our streets and when we meet together in church, the foundation stone in what we think do and say is the love of Jesus then there will be blessings shared every day.



Isn't that a miracle worth celebrating and thanking God?

Here are just two examples of people and churches can make a difference to their communities when they trust in Jesus. When this happens God's love is shared by so many.

This is what faith does and this is what **"Thy Kingdom come"** means in our world because God's love in us spreads out to those around us.

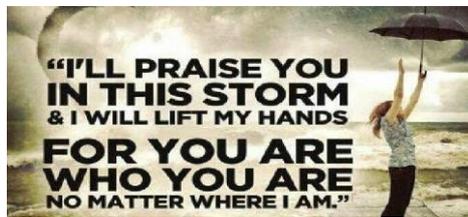
<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/faith-action-videos/buying-bus-instead-house>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/faith-action-videos/combating-loneliness-one-cake-time>

Song: Shine Jesus Shine is a song that celebrates the Kingdom of God here and now

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rce9UHYZwI4>

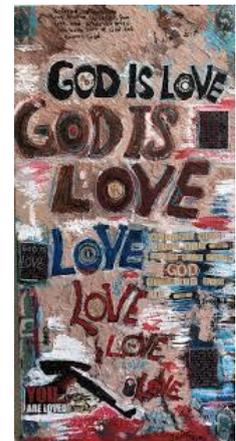
Prayers: *As members of God's kingdom when we pray in faith it means we really communicate with God through Jesus.* It won't just be words we say and forget. God will hear us and draw us close to him. So, in faith let us pray not just today but through the week as well.



Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin
against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.
Glory to the Father and to the
Son
And to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning is now
and shall be forever
Amen

Heavenly Father
In your son Jesus Christ
Lord,
give us your peace that we may
shine brightly in a dark world. Grant
us the courage to live faithfully even
if it can be difficult.
Help us to embrace our heavenly
citizenship and live to your glory in
the midst of a world that needs to
know You.
Show Your mercy and heal those
who are suffering and worried.
We pray that your kingdom come
and your will would be done.
Amen.

Lord make me an
instrument of your
peace.
Where there is
hatred let me sow
love;
where there is
injury, pardon;
where there is
doubt, faith
where there is
despair, hope;
where there is
darkness, light;
where there is
sadness, joy
Amen



Song: We can pray in song and promise we will offer up our lives to Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQkzHwz2eLE>

And when we give ourselves to Jesus in our family and in church anything can happen



Song: Let's praise the God who has called us into his kingdom

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OnfQpZr030>

A Blessing for us all, our friends and our neighbours and our family at St. John's:
We proclaim Jesus is our light in the world and our hope.

By the light of Christ, our living word;
may he break into our lives.

May we walk as children of light; and in faith
reveal your love to all those we know.

May the light and peace of Jesus Christ
Be with us for ever.

The Lord bless you
and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.

Amen



Final Song: The joy of the Lord is my strength
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcG9HApTC_Q

Keep us today, Lord, from turning away from you
Lord, have mercy.

We long for your salvation, O Lord:
grant us understanding of your love, that we may live.

Lord have mercy,

In you, Lord, is our hope:

let us dwell in your kingdom forever.

And may Christ,

who out of difficulty brings new hope and a new future,
fill us with his new life;

Amen.

I hope you have a wonderful week. Please keep in your prayers those who are still isolating or who are ill. Pray for safety and fun during the school holidays. And let's pray for our neighbours that they will see God in their lives.

Let's do something for God's Kingdom

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGvfagBOHJE>

Jesus began his teaching with these words

"He has chosen me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

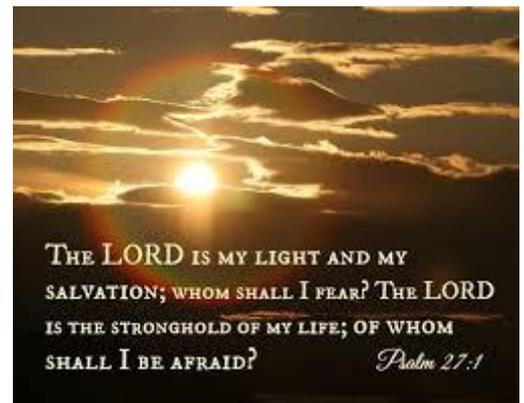
to set free the oppressed

announce that the time has come

when the Lord will save his people."

May the love of God and the grace of Jesus be with you all. Let's go in the strength of the Holy Spirit to love and serve one another. God be with us all our days.

Phil



Resources and Activities for the week

Send any ideas or art work to Phil so he can share with the rest of the church family

Make a cut out picture of Jesus and the disciples on the boat out at sea

Lots of ideas on Pinterest etc



Make a handprint picture of the world

Make labels with prayers or thanks to God because he really has the whole world in his hands



Make windsocks from cardboard tubes and tissue paper.

Hang them somewhere outside where the wind can catch them

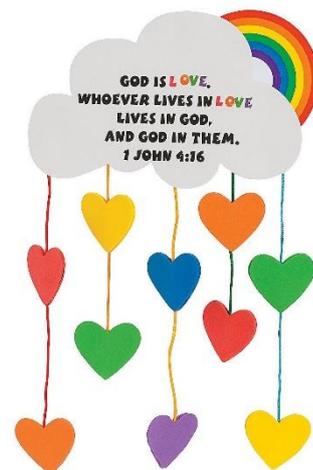


Make a simple mobile with pictures or shapes that represent God's love

Or try using an old metal coat hanger



incourage.me



<p>Use sticky notes to write prayers or make prayer pictures and then put them on the fridge or somewhere where you can see them and use them during the week</p>	
<p>Make a word picture using your ideas about who God is or what the Kingdom of God means to you.</p>	
<p>Why not gather some flowers or buy some simple ones and give them to a neighbour or someone in your family who needs cheering up this week. (ask permission to pick some flowers)</p>	
<p>Enjoy a family outing and stop a few times and think about God's great creation all around us. Say a quick thank you to God for all the good things we have.</p>	

Maybe as a family or you can get together with some others and either do a fund-raising event for a charity or run a street event to invite some neighbours who might be lonely.
(remember to keep socially distanced)



Or use Zoom or WhatsApp and have a virtual party

Send Phil any pictures of your art or if you are doing a fund-raising idea etc
Morrip57@gmail.com