

Morning Service 24th May 2020

Thank you for joining us for this morning service for the 7th Sunday of Easter. I'm Rev John Musson, vicar of Cudham and Downe and I'm joined by Helen Musson, Ordinand at St Augustines college.

Today we look at The Lord's prayer from John 17 – the prayer the Lord prays to his Father for you and me, focusing on the Glory of God.

You'll find the words of the service on the church website pcd.org.uk

The Greeting – As the Easter Candle is lit

We light this candle to remember
that the light of Jesus Christ is with us.
Let us glorify his name.
Amen.

**Mighty God, we gather in humility to worship you.
Caring God, we bring to you our concerns.
Glorious God, we exalt your holy name.
Unite us – make us one in you,
that your love may strengthen and empower us.
Amen**

Opening Hymn

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified;
no angels in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends their burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end,
and round His pierced feet

fair flowers of glory now extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown Him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time.
Creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For Thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

Opening Prayer

Lord of all glory, we come before you
seeking your wisdom,
that we may glorify you through our thinking;

seeking your love,
that we may glorify you through our emotions;

seeking your strength,
that we may glorify you at all times;

seeking your perseverance,
that we may glorify you in all places.

Show us how to live,
that our lives shine with your glory,
and those who encounter us may know you
and that you are at work in your world. **Amen.**

The response in our Prayer of penitence is, *Forgive us, God of glory.* Let us pray

When our actions are not loving,
and we think of just ourselves –
your name is not glorified.
Forgive us, God of Glory.

When our words bring hurt to others
and we do not even notice –
your name is not glorified.
Forgive us, God of Glory.

When the way we live is selfish
and we find no time for you –
your name is not glorified.
Forgive us, God of Glory.

When we do not see you or reveal your love –
your name is not glorified.

Forgive us, God of Glory.

Forgive and renew us,
and let your glory be seen in our lives.

Amen.

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for Today - 7th Sunday of Easter

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

We sing the Peruvian Gloria

Song

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father.
To God be glory forever.
To God be glory forever.
Alleluia, amen.
Alleluia, amen.
Alleluia amen, alleluia ame—n.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, son of the Father.
Glory to God, glory to God, son of the Father.
To God be glory forever.
To God be glory forever.
Alleluia, amen.
Alleluia, amen.
Alleluia amen, alleluia ame—n.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit.
To God be glory forever.
To God be glory forever.
Alleluia, amen.
Alleluia, amen.
Alleluia amen, alleluia ame—n.**

Bible Reading *John 17:1-11 (NIV).*

Jesus looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. ⁶ “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

Talk

What an amazing prayer. Prayer is such a privilege, but often we neglect prayer or take prayer for granted. I came across a story. A church had to bring in a temporary administrator, and on their first day at work they were having trouble opening the safe as the combination lock wasn't working properly. She called in the vicar – you can tell this is before the days of social distancing – who came and knelt down in front of the safe, looked serenely heavenly and moved his lips silently. Looking back at the lock, one final turn and without any further problem opened the safe. What an amazing answer to prayer, said the administrator. Not really, admitted the vicar, the numbers are on a piece of paper taped to the ceiling.

At our zoom homegroup on Wednesday evening, when reflecting on the readings for the previous two weeks, one thing that struck me was the promises Jesus gave to his friends – promises of reassurance and hope, even though he was just about to leave them. He promised not to leave them comfortless, but to send the Holy Spirit to be with them for ever. These promises are true for us. They had to wait, but the reality for us is that even though we celebrate Pentecost, the giving of the Spirit, next Sunday morning, the Spirit's presence can be ours. All this Jesus accomplished through his Ascension, his returning to the glory of his place in heaven – or as someone put it, the day that Jesus started working from home! The ascension event left his friends looking up into the sky, until they were reminded not to look there, but to wait for the promised Spirit, the promised now fulfilled and experienced by his believers today.

So let's have a look at today's reading; it's an amazing passage, and one of the most moving in the whole of the bible. It's Jesus prayer to his Father, having just spoken again to his disciples – they, once again, are feeling frightened, helpless, alone, unable to understand what is going to happen. Immediately after, Jesus is in the Garden of Gethsemane facing arrest and trial. And it's at this moment that we hear the Lord at prayer. Jesus looks up to heaven and says to his Father 'glorify your Son'. Glory – we often think of it as dazzling, heavenly 'bling', but it's clear from what follows that Jesus glory is found in the cross. This (v1) is the hour of glory. This is where Jesus will finish the work he was sent to do (v4) – the cry on the cross 'It is finished' is not a cry of defeat, but 'job done'!

Jesus says he's glorified too in his disciples (v10). Glory, you see, is not abstract, but rooted in a person, Jesus Christ, and is deeply relational. Look at what Jesus prays – that the father may glorify the Son; so that the Son may glorify the Father, and this is achieved by the disciples knowing Jesus – not knowing about him, but really knowing him, being in relationship with him (v3&6). This, says Jesus, is eternal life. Not just what we are offered when we die, important thought that message is in the midst of present

uncertainty, but a daily reality-living in the eternal takes us out of tendency to worry, to see the big picture of God in our lives and those around us.

But to me, the most amazing part of this prayer is verse 9 – I am praying for them – Jesus is praying for his friends. Jesus is praying for me, Jesus is praying for you. Remember what I said earlier – Jesus is now working from home. That’s still true – his work, to intercede for you. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews confirms this – he prays for you. He mentions you to his Father. How does that make you feel?

These are powerful words. The sad thing is how often we do not pray. I know that’s true of me, yet I also know the power of the words ‘I’m praying for you’ – or even ‘Can I pray with you?’ We don’t need to be physical together to be able to do that. We’re now a few days in to ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ 9 days of prayer, and so I invite you to pray for others, to lift them to the Father, and also to reflect on that amazing truth that Jesus prays for you.

All this builds our relationship with a loving Father who loves to hear from his children, and Jesus glorious victory on the cross makes that relationship possible. Enjoy some time reflecting on that, won’t you?

Please join us for homegroup on Wednesday at 8pm via zoom as we look again at this passage - Meeting ID: 832 1410 4451 Password: 892359. John will be sending out notes soon, please ask if you’d like a copy.

A time of reflection:

God of majesty and might,
your glory shines throughout the universe:
from the highest heaven to the deepest sea;
in all the creatures you have made;
in the seasons that shape our living.
Your glory shines through who you are
and through what you do.
The power of your glory
touches your creation and exalts it.
To you we offer our worship;
to you we offer our praise;
before you we come in adoration.
Amen.

The Creed *based on Philippians 2:6-11*

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,**

to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The prayers *the response is 'because he cares for you'*

We bring before God our concerns for our world:

where there is war we pray for peace;
where there is sickness we pray for health;
where there is despair we pray for hope.

Cast all your anxiety on him,
because he cares for you.

We pray that you would be active in health care:

in the work of doctors and dentists, psychiatrists and psychologists, nurses and administrators,
pharmacists and researchers.

Cast all your anxiety on him,
because he cares for you.

Guide our activity in the church:

may we find ways to grow;
may we always honour you;
may we serve our communities.

Cast all your anxiety on him,
because he cares for you.

We hold in your love those whom we love:

those who are sick;
those who are sorrowful;
those who need guidance and direction.

Cast all your anxiety on him,
because he cares for you.

Come to us, God of glory.

Hear us, heal us and shine through our lives.

Cast all your anxiety on him,
because he cares for you.

Amen.

We join together as Jesus taught us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. for ever and ever. Amen

Closing reflection: *As we look at the Easter Candle, we invite you to reflect...*

Where have I seen God's glory this week? In creation? In activity? In other people?

How do I react to God's glory? How do I want to react?

How do I feel about being in the midst of the glory of God? How can I help that glory shine through?

We conclude with:

**Unite us in your glory, loving Lord,
that you may be more clearly seen in your world.
Amen.**

Closing Song:

**Lord I lift your name on high;
Lord I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you are in my life;
I'm so glad you came to save us.**

**You came from heaven to earth, to show the way;
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay;
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord I lift your name on high!**

Blessing

Go into the world to show God's glory,
and may you always know God's blessing
and God's peace. **Amen.**

Thank you for joining us in worship today. Details of our next services are found on our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/PCDChurches/> where you can watch the service live or catch up later, and you'll find this week's notice sheet and other useful information on the church website pcd.org.uk

*Please also contact the Vicar, Rev John Musson if you need any help or just for a chat! vicar@pcd.org.uk
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