

PRAYING LIKE JESUS

“Try Praying”

Do you have friends, neighbours or family members who would like to try praying but don't know how to start? Pick up a “Try Praying” booklet from a box on the fence near the gate into St Mary's churchyard or point them to trypraying.co.uk. We also have versions for children and teenagers.

“7.14 PRAYER” begins today!

From today we are praying for 7 days and 14 hours each day (7am to 9pm). It is not too late to sign up to pray for one or several hours this week. There are resources with suggestions for prayer during that hour on our website:

denhamparish.church/714prayer

If you do not have access to the internet, call our church office at the usual opening hours to sign up and for the prayer resources to be sent to you.

Evening Prayer on Zoom

Each evening from 8.40–9.00pm we are meeting online to pray together (you can also call in with a phone). For details, contact our church office.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

(This is a new national phone line provided by the Church of England)

A SERVICE ON YOUTUBE!

Sunday Worship at 10.30am on Youtube, followed by ‘Virtual Coffee’ at 11.15am: tinyurl.com/youtube-denham

A SERVICE ON YOUR TELEPHONE!

Dial **01895 714013** to listen to a weekly service from Denham Parish Church. Do give it a try!

MANY FACES, ONE FAMILY

We are making a poster for Pentecost to show that the church is one family, made up of many faces. Can you send us a photo of yourself? Please email it to rector@denhamparish.church by Wednesday, 27 May.

In your prayers this week, please remember anyone known to us who is suffering the pain of bereavement at this time – especially the families of **Marian Gollop, Diane Scanlon and Edith Fryer.**



PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet

24th May 2020

7th Sunday of Easter

Welcome to this new-style Parousia! All Church of England buildings remain closed. But the life of our church is not being put on hold and God remains active in his world! This news and service sheet is one way of keeping in touch and worshipping together. You can download it from our website or ask our church office to send you a paper version. The inside pages provide you with a simple service so you can worship at home. Please check our website or Facebook page on a regular basis and do contact our church office if we can help in any way.

Christoph Lindner

When does eternal life begin? *By Ian Jennings*

John's Gospel teaches that human beings were created by God and for relationship with God. In this prayer of Jesus he says, “This is life eternal: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” Eternal life is not just endless ages of mind-boggling duration, but rather a relationship with the Son and the Father. The idea of endless ages could be a frightening thought but relationship with Jesus our Saviour and God our Heavenly Father is a heart-warming thought.

Eternal life begins now, because our relationship with God has begun by God's amazing grace. It is not just something we look forward to beyond the grave. It is a present life experience, not just a post-death experience. When Dr Preston was dying he said, “Though I change my place I will not change my company. I have walked with God while living and now I go to be with him.” The challenging question for us is ‘are we walking with him now?’ This is a bad time for a lot of reasons but it is a good time for deepening our relationship with God. Radio 4 recently reported that normally church attendance in this country is 6% of the population, but since COVID19 arrived, 25% of the population are weekly tuning in to online services. It has never been easier to go to church! This crisis is an opportunity to re-examine our relationship with God. I already know of those for whom relationship with Jesus has begun during these difficult days and that is so wonderful.

Although we are at the end of the Easter season, this great prayer of John 17 was prayed before the crucifixion. Jesus speaks of ‘glory’ often in John's Gospel and that glory is most clearly seen in the cross. “I brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.” He uses that same word at the time of his death, “It is finished.” He glorifies God by his crucifixion and completes the work. We glory in the cross; it is central to our faith and has opened the way for a vital, living relationship with God. The Westminster confession puts it well, “Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.” That has already begun.

STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL



email: office@denhamparish.church

phone: 01895 832771

Opening Prayer (from Psalm 139)

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Hymn

Come, let us join our cheerful songs with angels round the throne,
Ten thousand thousand are their tongues,
But all their joys are one.

'Worthy the Lamb that died,' they cry,
'To be exalted thus.'

'Worthy the Lamb,' our lips reply,
'for he was slain for us.'

Jesus is worthy to receive
Honour and pow'r divine;
And blessings, more than we can give,
Be Lord, for ever thine.

Let all creation join in one
To bless the sacred name
Of him that sits upon the throne,
And to adore the Lamb.

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins to God,
who forgives us in Christ.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,

through negligence, through
weakness, through our own
deliberate fault.

We are truly sorry,
and repent of all our sins.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life to the glory of your
name. Amen.

May God who loved the world so
much that he sent his Son to be our
Saviour forgive us our sins and make
us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bible Reading:

John 17.1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words,
he looked up to heaven and said,
'Father, the hour has come; glorify
your Son so that the Son may glorify
you, since you have given him
authority over all people, to give
eternal life to all whom you have
given him. And this is eternal life, that
they may know you, the only true
God, and Jesus Christ whom you have
sent. I glorified you on earth by
finishing the work that you gave me
to do. So now, Father, glorify me in
your own presence with the glory
that I had in your presence before the
world existed.

'I have made your name known to
those whom you gave me from the
world. They were yours, and you gave
them to me, and they have kept your
word. Now they know that
everything you have given me is from
you; for the words that you gave to
me I have given to them, and they
have received them and know in truth
that I came from you; and they have

believed that you sent me. I am not
asking on their behalf; I am not
asking on behalf of the world, but on
behalf of those whom you gave me,
because they are yours. All mine are
yours, and yours are mine; and I have
been glorified in them. And now I am
no longer in the world, but they are in
the world, and I am coming to you.
Holy Father, protect them in your
name that you have given me, so that
they may be one, as we are one.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Quiet Reflection or Time of Sharing
(or read page 1)

Prayers

*We pray for all aspects of the current
crisis – for those who are suffering and
grieving, for health care staff,
scientists and leaders, for those
working in critical jobs, for those who
are anxious.*

Collect for the 7th Sunday of Easter:

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at
your triumph, fill your Church on
earth with power and compassion,
that all who are estranged by sin may
find forgiveness and know your
peace, to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

*On page 1 Ian describes that this crisis
calls us to turn to God and find eternal
life in him:*

We pray that during this crisis many
would return to God or would receive
his grace, forgiveness and love for the
first time.

Holy Spirit of God, strengthen and
inspire churches around the world to

find new ways to be a city on a hill.
Give us all individually opportunities
to give a reason for the hope that we
have, doing this with gentleness and
respect.

We pray the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father...

Hymn

Immortal, invisible,
God only wise,
In light inaccessible
Hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious
The Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious,
Thy great name we praise.

To all life thou givest
To both great and small;
In all life thou livest,
The true life of all;
We blossom and flourish
As leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish;
But naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory,
Pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee,
All veiling their sight;
All laud we would render,
O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour
Of light hideth thee.

Blessing (based on 2 Timothy 1.7)

The peace of God which passes all
understanding, keep our hearts and
minds in the knowledge and love of
God and of his Son, Jesus Christ our
Lord. And the blessing of God
Almighty, the Father, the Son and the
Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and
evermore. Amen.