

The recording will be available via 234185 and the church website

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021** **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

10am Trinity Church, Sissinghurst

**United Benefice Morning Worship**

*Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.*

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

We say sorry to God:



**O King enthroned on high, filling the earth with your glory:  
holy is your name, Lord God almighty.  
In our sinfulness we cry to you to take our guilt away,  
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
He makes me lie in pastures green.  
He leads me by the still, still waters,  
His goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in You alone,  
And I will trust in You alone,  
For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,  
And He anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on His pure delights. *And I will trust...*

And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff  
are the comfort I need to know. *And I will trust...*



*We listen to God's Word:*

Ezekiel chapter 8: In the sixth year, in the sixth month on the fifth day, while I was sitting in my house and the elders of Judah were sitting before me, the hand of the Sovereign Lord came on me there. **2** I looked, and I saw a figure like that of a man. From what appeared to be his waist down he was like fire, and from there up his appearance was as bright as glowing metal. **3** He stretched out what looked like a hand and took me by the hair of my head. The Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and in visions of God he took me to Jerusalem, to the entrance of the north gate of the inner court, where the idol that provokes to jealousy stood. **4** And there before me was the glory of the God of Israel, as in the vision I had seen in the plain.

**5** Then he said to me, 'Son of man, look towards the north.' So I looked, and in the entrance north of the gate of the altar I saw this idol of jealousy. **6** And he said to me, 'Son of man, do you see what they are doing – the utterly detestable things the Israelites are doing here, things that will drive me far from my sanctuary? But you will see things that are even more detestable.' **7** Then he brought me to the entrance to the court. I looked, and I saw a hole in the wall. **8** He said to me, 'Son of man, now dig into the wall.' So I dug into the wall and saw a doorway there.

**9** And he said to me, 'Go in and see the wicked and detestable things they are doing here.' **10** So I went in and looked, and I saw portrayed all over the walls all kinds of crawling things and unclean animals and all the idols of Israel. **11** In front of them stood seventy elders of Israel, and Jaazaniah son of Shaphan was standing among them. Each had a censer in his hand, and a fragrant cloud of incense was rising.

**12** He said to me, 'Son of man, have you seen what the elders of Israel are doing in the darkness, each at the shrine of his own idol? They say, "The Lord does not see us; the Lord has forsaken the land.'" **13** Again, he said, 'You will see them doing things that are even more detestable.' **14** Then he brought me to the entrance of the north gate of the house of the Lord, and I saw women sitting there, mourning the god Tammuz.

**15** He said to me, 'Do you see this, son of man? You will see things that are even more detestable than this.'

**16** He then brought me into the inner court of the house of the Lord, and there at the entrance to the temple, between the portico and the altar, were about twenty-five men. With their backs towards the temple of the Lord and their faces towards the east, they were bowing down to the sun in the east.

**17** He said to me, 'Have you seen this, son of man? Is it a trivial matter for the people of Judah to do the detestable things they are doing here? Must they also fill the land with violence and continually arouse my anger? Look at them putting the branch to their nose! **18** Therefore I will deal with them in anger; I will not look on them with pity or spare them. Although they shout in my ears, I will not listen to them.'

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Acts chapter 4: **5** The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. **6** Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. **7** They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: 'By what power or what name did you do this?'

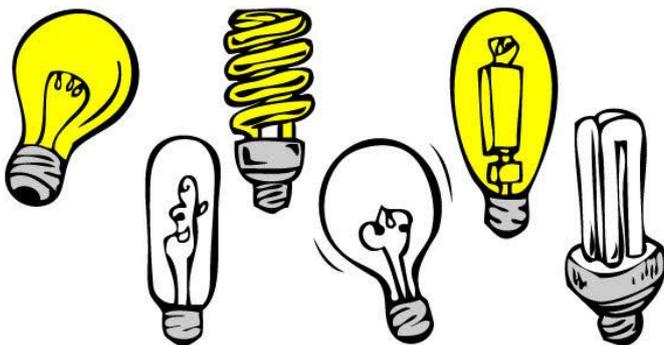
**8** Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: 'Rulers and elders of the people! **9** If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, **10** then know this, you and all the people of Israel: it is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.

**11** Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone."

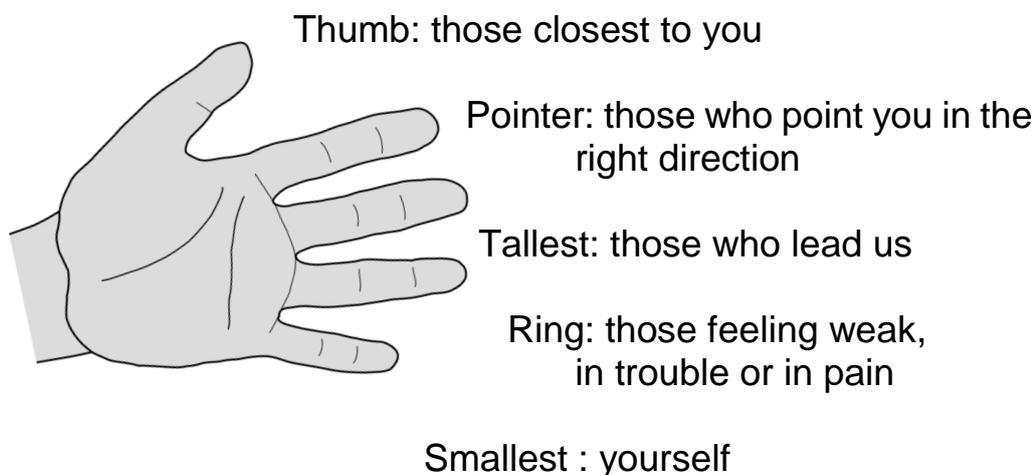
**12** Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.'

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

The Idolatry God Detests: Pete Deaves



We sit or kneel to talk to God:



Words from *Common Worship: Services & Prayers for the Church of England (2000)*. Used by permission

Please continue to book in for services by emailing Joanna - St Mary's Frittenden, or Penny - Trinity Sissinghurst, or Claire - Families Together. This helps with seating everyone safely and also printing enough service sheets. Thank you for bearing with us at this time. *Pete*

We affirm our faith in God:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***Bible Studies:** It's great we can listen to God's Word and pay attention to what God's saying to us. At the moment opportunities to talk about these things with each other are pretty limited, so why not join our midweek Bible Studies?  
A few booklets still available - just £3!*

We hear God's blessing over us:

1. To God be the glory, great things He has 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!  
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory, great things He has done.*

2. Oh, 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. *Praise the Lord...*

3. 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 transport, when Jesus we see. *Praise the Lord...*

Frances J Crosby



**Live Online  
Saturday 1st May**

**April/May 2021 What's coming up...**

**MON 26<sup>th</sup> 7:45pm** Marriage Preparation course Session 4 *via zoom*

**WED 28<sup>th</sup> 2-5pm** St Mary's Church open for Private Prayer  
**8pm** Bible Study - all warmly welcome. *via zoom/phone*

**THU 29<sup>th</sup> 10am** Bible Study - all warmly welcome. *via zoom/phone*  
**7:30pm** Trinity PCC *via zoom*

**FRI 30<sup>th</sup>** Prayer Walks in both Frittenden & Sissinghurst - all warmly welcome.  
More details from Nicky Robinson ([robinson.nj@btinternet.com](mailto:robinson.nj@btinternet.com))  
or Tim Heath ([tim@heathcom.net](mailto:tim@heathcom.net))

**SAT 1<sup>st</sup> May – NEW! Building Healthy Churches** – online Bible by the Beach event. See notice, and do let Pete know if you're planning to 'go' as he'd love to zoom with others who are going.

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**SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> 10am** United Benefice Morning Worship at St Mary's  
**6pm** United Benefice Communion (Book of Common Prayer), Trinity

**WED 5<sup>th</sup> 9am** Silence, Prayer and Communion ending at 9:30am  
**2-5pm** St Mary's Church open for Private Prayer  
**8pm** Bible Study - all warmly welcome. *via zoom/phone*

**THU 6<sup>th</sup>** Local Elections today...  
**10am** Bible Study - all warmly welcome. *via zoom/phone*  
**7:45pm** Marriage Preparation course Session 5 *via zoom*

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**SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> 10am** United Benefice Morning Worship at Sissinghurst  
**4pm** Families Together at St Mary's  
**6pm** United Benefice Evening Worship at St Mary's

**MON 10<sup>th</sup> 9:00am** Moving Mountains United Benefice Prayer at St Mary's