



St Martin of Tours Chelsfield

*St Martin's worships and serves a loving God,
reaching out to the community in the name of Jesus Christ.*

Sunday 16 May 2021

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

We pray for Revd Susan and the whole ministry team
as they prepare to lead our new benefice.

Almighty and everliving God, we beseech thee to inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord. Grant that all they that do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love. Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all ministers, that they may both by their life and doctrine set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. We ask this in the name of thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

(Prayer for the Church militant, adapted)

O Lord Jesus Christ, who prayed for your disciples that they might be one, even as you are one with the Father, draw us to yourself, that in common love and obedience to you we in this benefice may be united to one another, in the fellowship of the one Spirit, that the world may believe that you are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

(Archbishop William Temple, adapted)

*You are invited to spend a quiet time with these prayers,
readings and reflection.*

Prayers for the week

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.

[The Collect for the Seventh Sunday of Easter]

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Post Communion for the Seventh Sunday of Easter]

Today's psalm and readings

Psalm 1

The Two Ways

Happy are those
 who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
 or sit in the seat of scoffers;
but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
 and on his law they meditate day and night.
They are like trees
 planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
 and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so,
 but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement,
 nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked will perish.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

The Acts of the Apostles 1:15-17,21-end

Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, ¹⁶ ‘Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— ¹⁷ for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.’

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.’ ²³ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed and said, ‘Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.’ ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

The First Letter of John 5:9-13

Testimony concerning the Son of God

⁹ If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son.

¹⁰ Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

The Gospel according to John 17:6-19
Jesus Prays for His Disciples

Jesus prayed to the Father:

⁶ '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. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ 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. ⁹ I am 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. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ 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.

¹² While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵ I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.



THY KINGDOM COME

Ascension to Pentecost 13–23 May

Join the global wave of prayer calling all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing.

Through the centuries Christians have gathered at that time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. 'Thy Kingdom Come' picks up this tradition. Over the years more and more worshipping communities have dedicated the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray 'Come Holy Spirit'.

We are praying that the Spirit will inspire and equip us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our friends and families, our communities and networks.

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities."

Archbishop Justin Welby

See web site for more information:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

The Prayer Journal and Novena
may be downloaded from:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/new-2021>

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people
and kindle in us the fire of your love.*

God has ascended amid shouts of joy,
the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.
Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
For God is the King of all the earth;
sing to him a psalm of praise.

[Psalm 47:5-7 (NIV)]

Almighty God, your ascended Son has sent us into the world to preach the good news of your kingdom: inspire us with your Spirit and fill our hearts with the fire of your love, that all who hear your Word may be drawn to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Thy Kingdom Come - *Novena*]

Prayers for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A family prayer

Loving God, you know us and all that we are facing.
We thank you that we can come to you as we are – with
all our fears and concerns, our difficulties and challenges.
Please draw close to each of us and those we remember
before you now.
Bring to us your peace and comfort.
And fill us with your Spirit that we may be bearers of your
grace and hope to others.
As a country protect us, encourage us and keep us. In
the name of your Son Jesus, we pray.
Amen.

Scriptural Comfort

'Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand'

(Isaiah 41:10)

'Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'

(Philippians 4:6,7)

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.'

(John 3:16)

As we do not know how long this situation will last it is important that we look out for one another.

Please let Revd Susan know of anyone who is ill or in distress.

***Or if you need prayer or spiritual support,
or are lonely and just need a short chat please phone***

Revd Susan Atkinson-Jones
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Services at St Martin's

Sundays: Family Communion at 10.00am

Wednesdays: Holy Communion (BCP) at 9.30am

If you are attending a service at St.Martin's we do need to continue to be vigilant and to observe the following guidelines to ensure Covid safety.

- **DO NOT COME TO CHURCH** - if you have any symptoms, are shielding, or are worried about your health and safety.
- **DO NOT FEEL YOU HAVE TO ATTEND** – On-line worship, watching on TV, or listening to a radio broadcast is perfectly acceptable as 'church attendance' during this crisis.
- Ensure you bring a **FACE MASK** to church with you, and wear it throughout the service and in the churchyard and car park.
- Maintain a 2m minimum spacing and follow the instructions on the board in the porch and the directions of our service stewards. We've now changed the seating plan so that there is an empty pew between each occupied pew. Whilst this reduces capacity, it increases distancing for our safety.
- Though restrictions on meetings are being eased please **DO NOT** socialise in Church.
- Do not arrive too early, and leave as soon as you can after the service is over.
- In the Churchyard and car park please take care to observe guidelines to maintain safe distances and size of groups, and have a regard for the needs of others.
- The Churchyard Car Park gates will remain open for those attending services or visiting graves from 9.00am - 5.00pm Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Please contact a Churchwarden if you require special access at any other times.

Worship from St Martin's continues to be available online:

- A recording of the Sunday service
- Daily prayer on Facebook at 8.15am on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Please let Revd Susan know of any urgent prayer requests or of people in particular need.

Please note that to accommodate pastoral offices or with any changes to Diocesan or Government guidelines these arrangements are subject to change at any time.

For more information on St Martin's please visit our web site and Facebook page:

www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk

www.facebook.com/ChelsfieldStMartins

Online links and resources

Daily HOPE is a national, free phonenumber from the Church of England on **0800 804 8044**.

The line is available 24 hours a day and offers music, prayers and reflections, as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone.

For today's online Sunday service from the Church of England visit:

www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online

Prayer for the nation:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/call-prayer-nation>

For other Church of England resources please visit:

www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources

Acknowledgements

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