***Dalby Worship :***



*Christ is Risen!*

*Easter promises that, what God does in the resurrection of Jesus, is God's intention for the entire creation. .*

*.* James A. Harnish

 ***Reflection :***

*Dear Lord and Father of mankind,*

*forgive our foolish ways.*

*Reclothe us in our rightful mind,*

*in purer lives thy service find,*

*in deeper rev’rence Praise,*

*in deeper reverence Praise.*

*Drop thy still dews of quietness*

*till all our strivings cease;*

*take from our souls the strain and stress,*

*and let our ordered lives confess*

*the beauty of thy peace,*

*the beauty of thy peace.*

John Greenleaf Whittier

***Opening prayer :***

Father as we come before you

in the stillness and silence of this night,

we pray now, that our hearts and minds

will linger in your Love ....

that we may seek you in the depths of our beings..........

That we may leave our burdens

at the foot of your cross,

and looking up may dwell in Your Risen Glory....

that we may *know* you in the fullness of our hearts.

We ask this in Jesus’ name. **Amen**

***Reflection :***

 During the lockdown we’ve all had to make various adaptions and sacrifices from our usual routines and normality. I wonder what we’ve missed most from our previous lifetime of busyness ....and what we have discovered as our new “important”? Since Easter we’ve been exploring the awareness of the Living Presence of Christ with us; whoever we are and whatever we may be doing. The realisation that Christ is always with us; that it is *us* who may not always be quite so “present”? In our teaching today Jesus invites us to be among those who seek to live with awareness of that presence, to recognise Him as our centre, our stability, and in doing that, how we are opting in to *live life in its fullness.* Maybe, our own personal experiences of lockdown is an apt reminder of how in our “normal “ lives, even with the best of intentions, we can find ourselves chasing after wrong priorities ....?

***Faithfulness* :**

The Lord is my constant companion.

There is no need that He cannot fill.

Whether His course points

to the mountain tops of glorious joy

or to the valleys of human suffering.

He is by my side.

He is ever present with me.

He is close beside me

when I tread the dark streets of danger

and even when I flirt with death itself,

He will not leave me.

When the pain is severe,

He is near to comfort.

When the burden is heavy,

He is there to lean upon.

When darkness darkens my soul

He touches me with eternal joy.

When I feel empty and alone,

He fills the aching vacume with His power.

My security is in His promise

to be near me always

and in the knowledge

that He will never let me go. Psalm 23 from “Psalms Now”

*Followed by Silent Reflection to dwell in these words*

***Reading John 10:1-10***

**10**Jesus said, “I am telling you the truth: the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber. **2**The man who goes in through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. **3**The gatekeeper opens the gate for him; the sheep hear his voice as he calls his own sheep by name, and he leads them out. **4**When he has brought them out, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they know his voice. **5**They will not follow someone else; instead, they will run away from such a person, because they do not know his voice.”

**6**Jesus told them this parable, but they did not understand what he meant.

**7**So Jesus said again, “I am telling you the truth: I am the gate for the sheep. **8**All others who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. **9**I am the gate. Those who come in by me will be saved; they will come in and go out and find pasture. **10**The thief comes only in order to steal, kill, and destroy. I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness.

*Followed by silent reflection to dwell in these words*

# Reading : Acts 2:42-47  ..... life in all its fullness

# 42They spent their time in learning from the apostles, taking part in the fellowship, and sharing in the fellowship meals and the prayers.

# 43Many miracles and wonders were being done through the apostles, and everyone was filled with awe. 44All the believers continued together in close fellowship and shared their belongings with one another. 45They would sell their property and possessions, and distribute the money among all, according to what each one needed. 46Day after day they met as a group in the Temple, and they had their meals together in their homes, eating with glad and humble hearts, 47praising God, and enjoying the good will of all the people. And every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.

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*Followed by silent reflection to dwell in these words*

***The Collect for the day :***

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

***Prayer of intersession*** *: during our prayer, we will keep periods of quiet and reflection please dwell in the stillness so that the words spoken become the prayer of your heart.*

We reflect upon our day: *.............................. silence*

We are gratefulfor the love shared **............**

We are grateful for provision and nurture.............

we are grateful for kindness given **...........**

We pray for forgiveness for the sorrow we’ve caused .................

We pray for forgiveness for injustices ignored ..............

We bid you welcome

in the chance of transformation and new beginnings ...........

We bid you welcome

in the encounters with You today, in stranger and friend .........

We welcome you, Jesus of Nazareth

through the times of emptiness,

and through nights of desolation

 when we feel we have run dry ....................

We remember that you walked into the nights

and darkness of those people you met,

inviting them to justice, and truth, to love and to Life.............

For those whose nights are desolate let us pray to the Lord

that *they* may have the consolation of prayer,

peaceful solitude, and community. **..........**

For justice in Society:

for trust and friendship between all people,

each one created in the image of God

and called to His kingdom:

Let us pray to the Lord................

For all on the journey of discipleship and Love

That we may hear, and encounter,

and know within our selves

the constancy of God’s Love and support,

that will give us the faith, and the courage,

to truly live as His people,

now and forever more:

Let us pray to the Lord .............

We pray for a peaceful night ,...............

We pray for a hopeful day,..............

We pray for a deeper generosity ,...........

***We say our Lords prayer :******Our Father*** *....*

*Followed by a prayer during this time of Coronavirus:*

Ever present God,

be with us in our isolation,

be close to us in our distancing,

be healing in our sickness,

be joy in our sadness,

be light in our darkness,

be wisdom in our confusion,

be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,

that when the doors reopen

we may with the zeal of Pentecost

inhabit our communities

and speak of your goodness

to an emerging world.

For Jesus’ sake. Amen.

***Final prayer: Celtic Benediction***

In the busyness of this day

grant us a stillness of seeing O God.

In the conflicting vices of our hearts

grant us a calmness of hearing.

Let our seeing and our hearing

our word and our actions

be rooted in the silent certainty of your presence.

Let our passions for life

and the longings for justice that stir within us

be grounded in the experience of Your stillness.

Let our Lives be rooted in the ground of Your peace O God,

let us be rooted in the depths of your peace

# *We share the Grace:*

#  May the grace of our lord Jesus Christ

# and the Love of God

# and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

# be with us all

# now and for evermore

#  *Amen*

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