

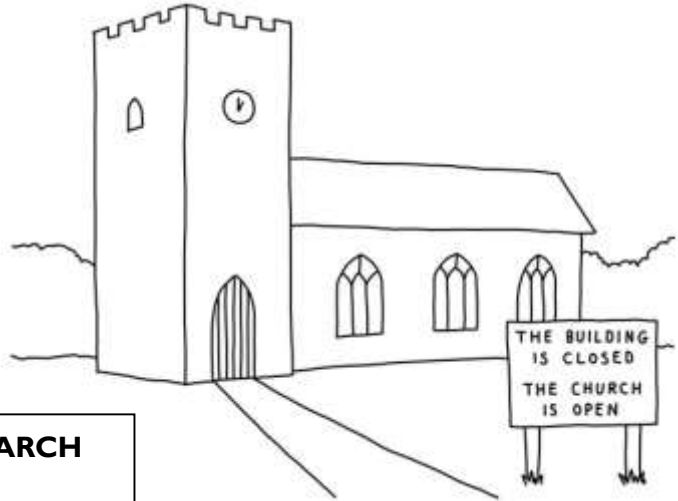


# Wychwood Benefice

Church News 29 March, 2020

***Our Vision: To build God's Kingdom here on earth as in heaven***

**All Church Buildings are closed as we all follow government instructions to STAY AT HOME**



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**SUNDAY 29 MARCH  
LENT 5**

## **PRAYERS AND READINGS**

**Collect** Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Post Communion** Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen**

## **Readings: (Year A)**

### **First Reading Romans 8:6-11**

Paul exhorts his readers to focus on the Spirit that dwells in them, reminding them that the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to their mortal bodies.

<sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

## **Gospel John 11:1-45**

At Bethany, Jesus raises his friend Lazarus from the dead, foreshadowing his own death and emergence from the tomb. Many of those who witness this miracle believe in Jesus.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' <sup>4</sup>But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' <sup>5</sup>Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup>But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' <sup>11</sup>After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' <sup>13</sup>Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup>For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' <sup>16</sup>Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' <sup>27</sup>She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.'<sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.'<sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.'<sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.'<sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.'<sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

<sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

**Deanery:** St Peter's Cornwell. Please pray for James Kennedy, David Salter, Jackie Jones, Martha Simpson Ursula, Simpson Roger Simpson, Judith Marshall & churchwarden Charles Colston.

**Prayer List:** Hostage John Cantlie, Mark Forsbrey, Emma Bradford, Wendy Cherry, and Marian Clark.

## Service Options and other Resources

### Wychwood Benefice:

- Geoffrey plans to post some daily prayer videos on our facebook page for those that would like to join. Follow (and like) our **Facebook page:** [facebook.com/WychwoodBenefice/](https://facebook.com/WychwoodBenefice/)
- We also hope to put other services online in due course.
- We will also post links to resources on our own website including orders of service for the Sunday services [WychwoodBenefice.org.uk](https://WychwoodBenefice.org.uk)

## Oxford Diocese:

- The next diocesan live-stream will hopefully take place at 10am on Sunday, 29 March by the four bishops working together, each from their own home. [www.oxford.anglican.org](http://www.oxford.anglican.org)
- Ahead of Sunday's livestream you can read an excellent blog by Canon Dr Grant Bayliss on the practice of spiritual communion: [www.chch.ox.ac.uk/blog/thoughts-cloistered-house](http://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/blog/thoughts-cloistered-house)

## Church of England

- For Personal prayers: [www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturg-and-prayer-resources](http://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturg-and-prayer-resources)
- For daily prayer and readings: [www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer](http://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer)
- For the latest Church of England guidelines and other resources please visit: [www.churchofengland.org/](http://www.churchofengland.org/)

## Notices

If you have any concerns please get in touch with Geoffrey or Anne.

### Readings 5 April:

*Liturgy of the Palms* **Gospel Matthew 21:1-11**

Having commanded two of his disciples to untie a donkey and bring it to him, Jesus rides into Jerusalem as the crowds praise and glorify him.

*Liturgy of the Passion* **First Reading Isaiah 50:4-9a**

God blesses us with the gifts we need, such as fortitude and resolve. However hard things may get, if we stay true to God, God will help us.

**Second Reading Philippians 2:5-11**

Paul exhorts his readers to imitate Christ, who in humility took the form of a slave, being born in human likeness and obedient to God's will. Therefore Christ is exalted above all others.

**Gospel Matthew 26:14 – end of 27**

The account of the passion of Christ.

#### Contact Details

The Benefice Office is currently closed, Clare is working from home and will be checking emails and phone messages Mon – Fri.

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**Rest Day: Thursday**

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