



# ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SUTTON

**3 MAY 2020 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**

Please join me for our

**Service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter at 10.30am**

(or at another convenient time) by following the Order of Service and singing in your own home.

I will be thinking of you all and praying for you at The Rectory at the same time and longing for our future reunion in Church.



Christ is risen  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*Frances*

Duty Warden: John Kerr

Musician: Isabella Harris

Sidespersons: Jean Chappell, Pamela Kerr

Sound desk: Jules Kieswich

Server: Henry Sawyerr

Intercessions: Revd Beverly Fraser

Welcomers: Pam Affleck, Glynis Osborne

Refreshments: Liz Cann, Chris Cann

*Here is a view of St Nic's from The Rectory garden at 10.28am on Easter Day*



**All Age Worship at St. Nicholas, Sutton**  
**for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter at 10.30am on 3 May 2020**  
led by Revd Frances Arnold, Priest-in-Charge

**GATHERING TOGETHER**

**Opening Hymn** Give me joy in my heart

**Greeting**

*The priest says*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

**We prepare to worship**

**All Almighty God  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **We say we are sorry**

*A minister says*

Brothers and sisters, as we prepare to celebrate,  
let us call to mind our sins.

*Please sit or kneel to pray*

**All Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly,  
love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

## **We are forgiven**

*The priest says*

May almighty God have mercy on you,  
forgive you your sins,  
and bring you to everlasting life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Gloria**

**All Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory in the highest  
To God be glory for ever  
Alleluia, Amen (x3)**

## **Collect** (prayer of the week)

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.

*The Collect is said, and all respond*

**All Amen.**

## **LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD**

*Please sit*

**Reading from the Bible** Acts 2.42-end

Life among the Believers  
*read by Glynis Osborne*

*At the end the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.  
**All Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

**Hymn** The Lord's my shepherd

**Gospel Reading** John 10.1-11

Jesus the Good Shepherd  
*read by Peter Wilson*

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *John*.  
**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Talk**

*Please sit*

What will your mum or dad say when you take home something you have made at church? (It might be a picture or something you have made at JAM or Spectrum).

If you begin to ask your parents the question, 'Can I... (play with..., learn to play the guitar...)?', do you know what they will say before they say it?

When you don't know what to do, you're stuck, do you sometimes think 'Well mum would..., or dad would say...'??

We know them well. We know what they would say and do in all sorts of situations. They know what is best for us. We trust them.

It's like that with Jesus, we know what he will say. As Jesus puts it, we know his voice.

<p>Jesus said The sheep follow the shepherd to safety because they know his voice. They do not follow a stranger's voice.</p> <p>He explained, 'I am the good shepherd, Follow me and you will find true happiness. Don't listen to others.'</p>
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We sometimes have to think quite hard about what Jesus is saying to us.

Jesus is asking us to put our trust in him, to follow him.

This means thinking, 'what would Jesus say?' when we have to make a choice.

That's not always easy. It includes being kind to people, even those we might not like. It includes sharing what we have and giving to others.

In Jesus' time the shepherd walked ahead of his sheep and the sheep followed him. The shepherd would have a rod and staff with him. The rod was for protection, to frighten away any wolves or wild animals that wanted to harm the flock. The staff had a curved bit at the top so if a sheep got stuck, in a bush or down a cliff, the shepherd could pull it out. Sheep can get into all sorts of trouble!

Shepherds protect their sheep. Jesus will protect us.

Dear God,

Thank you that you are a good shepherd.

Thank you that you know our names and that you care for us.

Thank you that you know all the dangers we can face in life.

Thank you that you never want us to walk alone. **Amen.**

## **Creed** (Statement of Belief)

*The priest says*

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

*Please stand*

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?  
**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?  
**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?  
**All We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.  
**All This is our faith.**  
**We believe and trust in one God,**  
**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**  
**Amen.**

## **Praying for ourselves and others**

*The priest says*

Let us pray for the church and for the world and let us thank God for his goodness.

*Please kneel or sit as Revd Beverly prays:*

### **Prayers for ourselves and others**

We meet with you, amazing God, thankful for all you have done in our lives this day-  
Giving us human families who have loved and nurtured us,  
Giving us Church families who have loved and nurtured us in your ways and who continue to support  
us in prayer, especially at this time as we learn to adapt to new and different ways of living.

*Think of some specific ways you are being blessed at this time and give thanks.*

Father God,  
your creation continues to change around us – trees are coming into full leaf,  
we hear birdsong and the whisper of the wind; we smell the rain;  
all signs of your continuing love and care.

*Give thanks for something in nature that you have particularly enjoyed this week.*

Lord Jesus Christ, your life, death and resurrection are the reason for the way we live our lives today,  
and yet we don't always manage to live up to our calling,  
finding it easier to grumble about any restrictions we are experiencing.

*Allow yourself to express your whinges!*

Lord Jesus, we give all these things into your hands

*See yourself literally giving your whinges like a parcel into Jesus hands and ask to be forgiven.*

[Jesus accepts these, freeing us from the burden of carrying them. He gives us his forgiveness]. Thank you, Lord.

Heavenly Father we thank you for joining us in one body, Your Church no matter how far apart we are. We thank you for the 'fellowship of all believers' that continues from the very first disciples and will go on to the end of the age.

*Give thanks for those who brought you to faith, for those who support you now and for those you support.*

Amazing God, we pray for your whole creation; that your love may be made known in each one of us. We pray for the opportunity to share that love with all, but especially those we come in contact with.

*As you sit in isolation think of a person that you can share Gods' love with*

Spirit of the living God, move among us all; make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love: humble, caring, selfless, willing to sharing.

*Imagine the Spirit of God filling your life with his love!*

*At the end we say*  
Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers,**  
**for the sake of your son,**  
**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **Sharing God's Peace**

*The priest says*  
God is love  
and those who live in love live in God  
and God lives in them.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**All And also with you.**

*Let us pray*  
Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants, give you most humble and hearty thanks  
for all your goodness and loving kindness.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies  
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful,  
and that we show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips but in our lives,  
by giving up ourselves to your service,  
and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the  
Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

May the Father,  
who so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
bring you by faith to his eternal life. **Amen.**