

Easter 5

St Barnabas Church, Thatcham

Service Companion

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, you are the rock of our lives.

You strengthen us and your mercy brings forgiveness to us.

We come to you in adoration,

praising you for that our whole life in your hands,

held, sustained, protected.

Glory be to you, merciful Lord,

glory, honour, majesty and worship.

In the name of your Son, our redeemer.

Amen.

Readings

John 14:1-14 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe^a in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?^b ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.”^c ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know^d my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I

say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me⁶¹ for anything, I will do it.

Prayers

Jesus, you are the way.

Help us to know your guidance in our lives,

Help us in our struggles to sense your presence,

Help us to know that you are with us,

To have the confidence to ask for anything that we need

And for the needs of those around us.

We pray for all those currently struggling to find their own way,

We pray for those whose way has been disrupted by corona virus

We particularly pray for this whose source of income has been disrupted

And the think of those who we know who are struggling in this way and bring them to God now.

Jesus you are the truth,

We pray for our church as we seek to adapt to these every changing times.

We pray that our community would remain strong

And that we would have the resources we need to continue to reach out to the community around us.

We pray that in the quiet you would inspire us with fresh vision for your church here in Thatcham.

We ask for the simple things we need, for our ability to meet together and for our finances knowing that you are our provider.

We pray for the children in our community, that they too might have what they need to know and to love you.

And so we bring to God those areas of our church life that we miss, that we love and over which we ask for God's blessing.

Jesus, you are the life.

Help us to know your life within us, invigorating us and bringing us meaning and hope.

Help us to know the life in all its fullness that you promise even in the midst of our current challenges.

Help us to be life givers to others when their hope and inspiration runs dry.

We pray for those who are fearful about their lives.

Those who fear sickness or who are in the midst of illness right now.

We pray for the elderly, and those who find the changes in their life due to corona virus difficult to cope with.

We think of those close to us who are struggling in this way and bring them to God now.

We finish by saying the words of the Lord's prayer together.

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.

The Blessing

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.