

## Traditional Home service Sunday 10th May Easter 5

### OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### PRAYER OF PENITENCE

Lord our God,  
in our sin we have avoided your call.  
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes away early.  
Have mercy on us;  
deliver us from judgement;  
bind up our wounds and revive us;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### PRAISE

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ. Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs:  
Let us sing to God with thankful hearts.  
Open our lips, Lord:  
and we shall praise your name.

### HYMN 1 (*see page 2*)

READINGS - Acts 17:24-27  
- John 14:1-14

### TALK (*see page 3*)

### CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son,  
our Lord, who was conceived by the  
Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the  
Father, and he will come to judge the  
living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Spend some time praying for our nation,  
our community and our families.*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

### HYMN 2 (*see page 2*)

### CONCLUSION

The peace of God, which passes all  
understanding keep our hearts and  
minds in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
and the blessing of God Almighty, Father  
Son and Holy Spirit be among us and  
remain with us always. Amen.

## HYMNS TO USE

**466** Henry Francis Lyte.

### **PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN;**

To His feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Who like thee His praise should sing?  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise Him for His grace and favour  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise Him, still the same forever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like, He tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame He knows;  
In His hands He gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Widely as His mercy flows.

Angels in the height, adore Him;  
Ye behold Him face to face;  
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,  
Dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise with us the God of grace!

**525** Samuel John Stone.

### **THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION**

Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is His new creation  
By water and the word;  
From heaven He came and sought her  
To be His holy bride,  
With His own blood He bought her,  
And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation,  
Yet one o'er all the earth,  
Her charter of salvation—  
One Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy name she blesses,  
Partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses  
With every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder  
Men see her sore oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder,  
By heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping,  
Their cry goes up, 'How long?'  
And soon the night of weeping  
Shall be the morn of song.

'Mid toil, and tribulation,  
And tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation  
Of peace forever more;  
Till with the vision glorious  
Her longing eyes are blessed,  
And the great church victorious  
Shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union  
With God the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion  
With those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy!  
Lord, give us grace that we,  
Like them, the meek and lowly,  
On high may dwell with Thee.

## Nigel Clent's talk - Sunday 10th May

Hello and good morning to you all, todays reading is from Acts 17:24-27

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him though he is not far from anyone of us.

So, the story I have for you today happened to me just before Christmas. This was on a Wednesday evening after college, it starts off in college actually. I was playing around with some bits of paper while the lesson was being taught, I realised that one of the bits of paper that I was fiddling around with made a rather fetching collar, Vicar's collar. Some of the other people noticed this and started to giggle, I said to them "oh ye of little faith how long must I put up with you for", we had a bit of a giggle and then we went for coffee and forgot about it, finished the rest of the lesson and off we went. Because I had to go from work straight to college, I had missed dinner, so I was absolutely starving, I went via Northampton to pick up something to eat. I thought I would stop at the first place I came to which was a small kebab shop in Northampton town centre. When I got in there, there were 7 or 8 rather drunk guys 20 or 22 years old something like that. They were quite aggressive towards each other and the shop keeper. It got quite warm with the

heat from everybody in there and the grills, I undone my coat and stood there waiting. After about 5 minutes one of the young men bumped into me. As soon as he did, he looked at me and said "I'm really sorry, didn't mean to do that. We are only messing around, we don't mean anything by it", and what I then realised was that as I undone my coat I had revealed my Vicar's collar which I had forgotten to take off. So now this young man and all his friends think that I am a Vicar. All this harshness, this aggressiveness went down to a hush and mild gesticulation. I'm thinking this is a bit naughty, I should really tell them that I'm not a Vicar, but I didn't. They received their kebabs and left the building, which just left me alone with the owner of the shop. He then turns to me and said, "what can I get you Father" and I thought just tell him, so I said, "I'll have a large doner kebab please". He then said, "chili sauce Father" and I said, "oh yes please". I felt terrible but I just couldn't tell him, and then he started wrapping the kebab and I took out a ten-pound note to pay him, I handed over the tenner and he said to me, "no, no, no there's no charge" and I thought well you can't do that and I said, "you can't work this time of night and not take people's money", he said, "no, it's a pleasure Father to have you in my shop", so I said to him "thanks very much", and I left the shop...which was really bad, I shouldn't have done it, but I'd dug a hole that I didn't have the courage to get out of. So anyway, I did it and that's all there is to it, and I'm sorry.

So, this left me with the question of why this young man and his friends reacted the way they did when they saw me. What was it about the collar that made them show me, or as they thought a vicar, such great respect? Also there was a video clip on the Church WhatsApp group of a Vicar, a real

one this time, driving around a housing estate in London playing Amazing Grace from a loud speaker on the roof of his car, he then prayed the Lords' Prayer to everybody. After they had finished applauding, the Vicar thanked them for their time, the crowd asked him to come back the next day. Why did these non-Christians do that? The answer is because Christ lives in all of us, surely God dwells in all his creation. So, then it is a case of finding the divine within ourselves as we search for something better than a world that doesn't satisfy. The last part of the Acts reading, in verse 27, says "God did this so they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though he is not far from any one of us". A non-Christian may pray when desperate enough, as a last resort, whereas a Christian prays as a first resort. But a last resort prayer can be the first step to a new life.

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May 1940 King George VI declared a day of prayer, it was a last resort. Britain was to be taken by the Germans and there was nothing we could do to stop them. The King, in his address, asked for the people of Britain to commit their cause to God. May 27<sup>th</sup>, the following day, the German High Command boasted "The British Army is encircled, and our troops are proceeding to its annihilation".

We had to evacuate from Dunkirk, which was already threatened by the Germans, bearing this in mind Churchill said we were only hoping for 20,000 to 30,000 troops to be saved.

When the Germans were only 10 miles away from Dunkirk, Hitler rested his army, bizarrely. He did this against all the advice from his generals.

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, two days after the national prayer, a storm of unprecedented power broke out over the land over Dunkirk which made it impossible for the German aircraft to take to the skies. So now the British troops could move without interruption from enemy aircraft. Then as abruptly as this powerful storm came it left, leaving a great calm settling over the channel. A calm that is rarely seen, like a mill pond enabling all the boats, especially the small ones, to go back and forth across the waters to rescue the troops.

It wasn't 20,000 or 30,000 as Churchill had hoped, but 335,000. In their thousands people of Britain queued for hours to get into churches. A nation of believers and non- believers came together in a common cause and prayed as a last resort and miracles happened. One newspaper had the headline "God has made the impossible possible". It is no longer Hitler that threatens us today, but a virus and many people will be praying as a last resort. Many non- Christians will be saying their first words in prayer to Jesus. As with the young men in the kebab shop, Jesus is in all of us. Sub-consciously they realised what the collar represented to them was already in them. Jesus is in all of us, they just need to wake up to it. To me that's what being a Christian means, simply to wake up and realise the truth. So as this dreadful virus spreads, so does Jesus. He is the good part of this situation, the other side of the coin. We know from history what he can do, we know his miracles. Prayer and belief as a nation is what we need. I know that in the weeks to come the other side of the coin will shine and we will say "Heads Jesus it is, we win". Amen