Dear friends,

My reflection on Sunday’s readings led me to record a talk on the “call of God” which (I think) speaks into our church opening for its first services of Holy Communion for far too long. You can watch it by clicking on the following link.

<https://youtu.be/LhLDrnTJiN4>

And as has become the “New normal” if you’d prefer to just read it instead it is on my Blog.<https://revmartinjacques.blogspot.com/2020/07/the-call-of-god.html>

Or…the even newer “new normal” you could even come to church (!) and hear me deliver it (again) live at either **St. Peter’s Budleigh Salterton at 10am** or at **St. Michael’s Otterton at 11.15am**.

These times for this Sunday only are **now confirmed**. Please inform anyone who may not have heard. Just for clarity, midweek services are still suspended. I hope it isn’t long before both the 8am BCP service at St. Peter’s and the mid-week services will both be re-instated soon (will discuss with wardens) but we are inching our way forwards.

The shorter communion service I attach to this email so you may like to print it off for yourself. That would be in A4 format of course though there will be A5 format ones available in church.

Communion will be in one kind, standing up in a socially distanced line in both churches from the front of the Nave to avoid any bottleneck at the altar.  It will be great to get back to offering the one unique thing the church has to offer which is Jesus Christ himself

Streaming services in the future?

Tony, who is not only our treasurer at St. Peter’s, but also our resident technical expert (he’s one of the few who understands what they are all going on about) had an enjoyable and very instructive zoom meeting that explored the equipment and techniques needed to stream our services in the future on YouTube or Facebook. Apparently, it is easier than you might think, and the equipment isn’t very expensive either, so I’ll keep you informed on that front obviously.

The curious case of the bird up the chimney

On Thursday evening we heard debris falling from the chimney into the grate accompanied by funny sounds. I checked the chimney from outside but all looked normal. Then, while watching the Telly a larger sound and a wing appeared momentarily. At closer inspection with a torch we could see a bird up the chimney – it must have fallen all the way down. Luckily it was just within reach so I tugged its tail and out popped a pigeon onto a blanket we’d put there to catch him. Obviously disorientated and in distress he flew into the wall and eventually landed in the corner of the room. Louise managed to throw the blanket over him and took him outside. Temporarily stunned and blinking he didn’t move much for what like seemed for ages but eventually came to his senses and took flight and landed in a tall tree so we presume he will be OK. Luckily Axel our cat wasn’t there during this episode but later when he did appear he was sniffing the corner of the room and followed the smell back to the chimney which he examined thoroughly. We marvelled at the fact that a sense of small that keen must open up a whole new dimension to life!

In a similar vein my brother-in-law came back to his condo in Singapore and found a bit of a mess and a box of chocolates eaten and strewn on the floor. He examined CCTV footage of while they were out and he sent us a five minute extract of a monkey who had got in through a window and helped himself. Their apartment backs on to open jungle so perhaps not so unexpected!

“God” by Christian mystic Khalil Gibran

In the ancient days, when the first quiver of speech came to my lips, I ascended the holy mountain and spoke unto God, saying, "Master, I am thy slave. Thy hidden will is my law and I shall obey thee for ever more."

But God made no answer, and like a mighty tempest passed away.

And after a thousand years I ascended the holy mountain and again spoke unto God, saying, "Creator, I am thy creation. Out of clay hast thou fashioned me and to thee I owe mine all."

And God made no answer, but like a thousand swift wings passed away.

And after a thousand years I climbed the holy mountain and spoke unto God again, saying, "Father, I am thy son. In pity and love thou hast given me birth, and through love and worship I shall inherit thy kingdom."

And God made no answer, and like the mist that veils the distant hills he passed away.

And after a thousand years I climbed the sacred mountain and again spoke unto God, saying, "My God, my aim and my fulfilment; I am thy yesterday and thou art my tomorrow. I am thy root in the earth and thou art my flower in the sky, and together we grow before the face of the sun."

Then God leaned over me, and in my ears whispered words of sweetness, and even as the sea that enfoldeth a brook that runneth down to her, he enfolded me.

And when I descended to the valleys and the plains, God was there also.

The Prayer for Today is a simple prayer by a Mirfield Father Trevor Huddleston, a revered figure and anti-Apartheid campaigner we learned about when I trained there and this is a prayer he wrote praying for National well-being so can be prayed for any nation at any time.

**God bless this Nation**

**Guard her peoples,**

**Guide her leaders**

**And give peace**

**For Jesus Christ’s sake.**

Love and peace,

Martin

Please note my new email address is vicar@rmcommunity.co.uk

**Holy Communion – Ordinary time - Green**

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**Almighty God,To whom all hearts are open,**

**All desires known and 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**

Prayers of penitence

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ

To save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,**

**We have sinned against you**

**And against our neighbour**

**In thought and word and deed,**

**Through negligence, through weakness,**

**Through our own deliberate fault.**

**We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins,**

**For the sake of your son Jesus Christ,**

**Who died for us,**

**Forgive us all that is past**

**And grant that we may serve you in newness of life**

**To the glory of your name. Amen**

The Priest affirms God’s forgiveness;

Almighty God,

Who forgives all who truly repent,

Have mercy upon you,

Pardon and deliver you from all your sins,

Confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,

And keep you in life eternal

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

  **Glory to God in the highest,**

**and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,**

**almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you, we give you thanks,**

**we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world:**

**have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father:**

**receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,**

**you alone are the Lord,**

**you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit,**

**in the glory of God the Father.**

**Amen.**

The collect of the day is said.

A reading from the old and new Testaments is read.

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

The Gospel reading

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N

The Sermon

We stand for the Apostles 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.**

Intercessions usually ending with the following

Merciful Father **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

The Peace

Eucharistic Prayer.

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

**Holy, holy holy Lord, God of power and might**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who come in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

At the end of the Eucharistic prayer we all say the Lord’s prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come.**

**thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation.**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

The breaking of the bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

**Though we are many we are one body because we all share in one bread**

We share communion with God and each other

After communion we say together

  **Almighty God,**

**we thank you for feeding us**

**with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.**

**Through him we offer you our souls and bodies**

**to be a living sacrifice. Send us out**

**in the power of your Spirit to live and work**

**to your praise and glory. Amen.**

The Blessing and dismissal