

## The Fifth Sunday of Lent - 29th March 2020

### N.B. Clocks have gone forward today!

*Philippians 3.10:* I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection.

#### The Collect:

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### Reading: Ezekiel 37.1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

#### Psalm 130

Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice;  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

**Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord**

If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss,  
O Lord, who could stand?  
But there is forgiveness with you, so that you shall be feared.

**Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord**

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;  
in his word is my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord,  
more than the night watch for the morning,  
more than the night watch for the morning.

**Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord**

O Israel, wait for the Lord,  
for with the Lord there is mercy;  
With him is plenteous redemption  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

**Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord**

### **Gospel: John 11.1-45**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' 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.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' 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. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

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

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.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 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. 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.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 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.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. 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.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' 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.'

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

### **Intercessions**

**We give thanks** for increasing daylight

**We pray particularly for:** James, William, Robina Freeman, Anne Memery, Bishop Lee, Tim Tayler, Myra Wilcox, Josephine House, Derrick Sheppard, Marc Vyvyan-Jones, Arthur Brice

*On-going prayers:* Tom Freeman, Flora Nash, Josephine, Mary, the Bingham family, Tracey Hedderman, Mike Blanchard

*Recently died:* Barry Eastman, Peter Bentley

*We remember* the following, whose anniversaries of death occur this week or last: (Apologies for omitting them last week)

Reg Ainley, Florence Ratcliffe, Iris Pyne, Kathleen Cheek, Michael Smart, Alan Michael Smith, Paul Dainty, Valerie Dean, David Enderby, Alice Stagg, Barbara Reed, John Crocker, Kay Preece, Judy Wilkinson, Robert Roberts, Sue Champion, Alexander Wardrop, Stella George, Richard Bowden

We pray for their loved ones who miss them.

**Local Church Partners:** St. Mary Magdalene

**Mission:** We pray for our Deanery Link with Kitgum Diocese, Uganda that through continuing mutual and financial support God's love will be known in both our communities.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Mbeere (Kenya), The Right Revd Moses Masamba Nthukah;

Wellington (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia), The Right Revd Justin Duckworth; Idah (Nigeria), The Right Revd Joseph Musa.

**Bristol Diocese:** Sherston Magna: Holy Cross; Sherston CE VC Primary School

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.**

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**Floodlighting:** The Church Tower will be floodlit on Monday 30th in memory of David Liddle on the anniversary of his birth

**Please follow the advice** from the Church of England and the Government. Please ensure you are keeping your distance and keep washing your hands.

You may contact the Parish Office via email [office@westbury-parish-church.org.uk](mailto:office@westbury-parish-church.org.uk) or telephone, 9508644. **All Church of England buildings are now closed and the office is closed to visitors.** (Morning collections and deliveries are still possible). Church (the people) continues. If you need help or can offer help please contact us.

**Parish magazines** are available Monday to Friday mornings from the parish office corridor – if you have not already paid please bring the correct money with you. If you are not able to come out during the current situation, please either ask a neighbour to fetch your copy or let us know and we will do our best to arrange delivery.

Please print this for those you know without internet access.

## **CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

### **MONDAY 30th March**

Daily Prayer: Withey Close West

### **TUESDAY 31st March**

Daily Prayer: Woodland Grove

### **WEDNESDAY 1st April**

Daily Prayer: Abbey Road

2.15pm Private funeral of Barry Eastman at Canford Crematorium

### **THURSDAY 2nd April**

Daily prayer: Albert Place

### **FRIDAY 3rd April**

Daily prayer: Aust Lane

### **SATURDAY 4th April**

Daily prayer: Back Stoke Lane

<b>NEXT SUNDAY – PALM SUNDAY</b>
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