

Christ is Risen! Ascended! Glorified!

Last week Elizabeth Knifton spoke passionately about the “Power of the Cross flowing through us”, If you missed it, please go to our St Luke’s Grayshott YouTube Channel, and watch it, this week Susie is speaking about the “Power of the Cross for Unity” using John 17, when Jesus prayed for the Church, which still applies, that we are ‘one in him’.

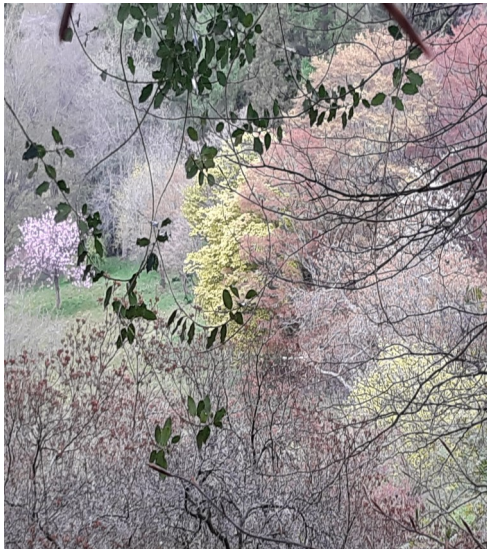


Photo by Brenda Schwartz

The Power of the Cross for Unity Psalm 133

- ¹ How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!
- ² It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron’s beard, down on the collar of his robe.
- ³ It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.
For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.



THE LITANY OF RECONCILIATION from Coventry Cathedral

“All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God”
(Romans 3:23)

.....
The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class: **Father, forgive**

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own. **Father, forgive**

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste to the earth **Father, forgive**

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others **Father, forgive**

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee. **Father, forgive**

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women, and children **Father, forgive**

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves, and not in God. **Father, forgive**

.....
“Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

(Ephesians 4:32)

Thank you to Ros Balfour for this

The Week Ahead Zoom Links are in Website Calendar

Today 16th May (3rd Sunday)

- 08.00 Children`s Celebration Video
- 10.30 Service in Church (Live Streamed)
- 11.45 Sunday Zoom Chat Fellowship
- 18.00 BCP Communion in Church
- 18.00 ~No Zoom Evensong Service

17th Monday - 21th Friday

- 09.00 Weekday Morning Zoom Meditation

17th Monday

- 10 00 Babes and Toddlers,
- 17-00-19.00 Youth Service / Bible study
- 18.00 Zoom Prayer with Brenda

19th Wednesday

- 15.00 Tea and Chat at 3

21st Friday

- 17.00 - 18.00 Youth Bible Study

Sunday 23rd May (4th Sunday)

Pentecost Sunday (Whit Sunday)

- 08.00 Children`s Celebration Video
- 10.30 Service in Church (Live Streamed)
- 11.45 Sunday Zoom Chat Fellowship
- 18.00 BCP Communion in Church
- 19.30 Zoom Evensong Service

Track and Trace at the door

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REOPENING

As restrictions are relaxing, we are beginning to think about restarting groups in the Church rooms. If you previously led a group, please think and pray about whether it will restart. If you are proposing to restart, please can you let Madi know the following:

- ▶ Preferred Room, ▶ Day and Time of the week for the group and
- ▶ possibly Date for restarting.



Photo by Madi Mocanu

Contributions

Please send any contributions regarding good news, gardening tips, photos, humorous items, favourite Bible verse, poems, etc, for inclusion in future Newsletters before Wednesday, to Madi's email office@stlukes-grayshott.org

Prayer's for the week

- Head Teacher recruitment at Grayshott School
- Royal Family
- The pandemic in India (The situation is still worsening in India—numbers of infections and deaths still increasing)
- Those we know are sick.

The BCP Collect for Today

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
 that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
 Amen

Prayer Focus Update Thursday 13th May

As you will know from the News, the situation in India continues to worsen Nurses and Doctors are committing suicide as they cannot cope with the situation and there is a great sense of hopelessness. People feel there is no governance or plan as the hospitals continue to run out of oxygen. There are public appeals for ICU beds at any price and black market oxygen reportedly available. Reports from praying Christians in India: " We can see the hint of light and know this dark night will end". Another saw "blessings come down as a cloud of prayers ascended." "There is a sense that God is doing something but we can't see what.

Blessons flight was cancelled at 7.30am on Monday, the day he was due to travel, so didn't have to go to S India. Everyone seeing it as an answer to prayer for protection over the family.

The son of a General (we will call him M) military Christian leader, who we prayed for last week has sadly died. This has shaken the military Christian community in that area of India as well as M's church community. They believed in faith that when a bed was found the son would recover. Please pray for M as he deals with his loss while people watch him to see if his faith survives and asking him how he explains it.

Pray for the government and leaders of each state. Government ministers are not being seen or heard. leaving everything to local leaders. The government is refusing to accept help from Christian organizations including oxygen and ventilators as they fear the impact that would have politically. "We need your prayers - keep praying"
 Many thanks,
 Susie

Life School

I mentioned last week that the vision growing in me, over the last year, is that we draw the many different activities, the services, the encounters with others, everything! and place it all under the umbrella of living as a community of faith, fulfilling the ultimate commandment to love God, and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves, (Matthew 22) and that everything we do (whether it is in the area of worship, hospitality, or conversation, or help, or reading, or preaching) we do in the spirit of serving the Lord, and learning his ways, growing in faith, to see the Kingdom of God come to Grayshott.

The impact of this will be that we are all excited about finding out what the Lord is leading us to be and do, and we develop a goal of reaching out, inviting, explaining, and leading people to Jesus, so that they can come to the Father through him. Through this we will achieve a unity of purpose, and a community identity, so that anyone who meets someone from St Luke's will have the same sense that we are a community that knows what we are here for. Does this mean that we are forcing our ideas or perspectives on others? NO! But that we are motivated to share what we know we have with others.

We all stand on the brink of coming out of the Covid restrictions, and the question we all face is: how do we do that well? People are asking about the lessons that society has learned from Covid, and whether we will remember them? What I see, is that we at St Luke's have suspended activities and they are all hanging in the air, and we are wondering how they will land, a bit like a Tetris puzzle where the key is to manage where pieces land, so they all fit together, and how new ideas will find their place in the big picture. It may of course also be that some of the things we did before we can 'retire'.

Part of this vision for coming out of Lockdown, is to have a review of homegroups, and other means of support, introducing courses for newcomers such as Alpha, and looking at how we create a pathway for people coming into the Church for the first time. I am enormously grateful for all the support I am receiving, and the PCC is working through some of the practical implications of how we do this.

As we look forward to a bright future, I am trusting that what the Lord plans, he also provides for. Financial support is part of the picture, and we also need to have the right people in the right places with the right skills, So one need is the formation, and leadership of a fundraising group to coordinate funding applications, and encourage activities that will help us to keep on top of the supply. All who give to the Church, are investing in the Kingdom of God. Please pray about where you fit into this picture.

"Except the Lord builds the house they labour in vain that build it..." Ps 127 With love Jeremy

"The Power of the Cross for Unity Today's Readings:

Psalm 1:1-6
 John 17:6-19

We are so grateful to you all for your support and encouragement in the work of the Gospel.

**Our Love to you all,
 Jeremy & Claire**