

Prayer and Reflections

11th April

Services

10:30 Revd Alan

6:30 Mr Colin Russ

<https://www.valeofstour.org.uk/virtual-church/live/vosworship>

Services 24/7

<https://www.valeofstour.org.uk/virtual-church/player>

Our P&R Share it with your friends

<https://www.providence-methodist.org.uk/our-church/prayer-and-reflections>

Notices

Knitters :- it is intended to use the knitted squares in the planned memorial service later in the year. It is acknowledged that some may not be knitters, So we ask those who can to knit extra squares. I have attached the pattern.

A prayer of blessing

Peace be with you, dear brothers and sisters, and may God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you love with faithfulness. May God's grace be eternally upon all who love our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen
(Ephesians 6: 23-24)

Reflection

Today we consider the Disciples in the Upper Room - John 20:19-23. In the Gospel passage we are presented with a scene of fearful tension. The disciples are gathered together in a room, the doors are bolted shut; they have turned in on themselves. They are frightened and perplexed at the death of Jesus, the disappearance of His body and the extraordinary witness of Mary Magdalene to His resurrection. Jesus appears to them His greeting, "Peace be with you." Thomas is missing, on his return he is told we have seen the Lord, his response "until I have seen him and touched the holes in his hand and side I don't believe. Over the years he has been labelled "Doubting Thomas"

Jesus appears a second time inviting Thomas to insert his fingers. No need, Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28)

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20:29)

From my infancy my mother taught me to say my prayers at bedtime. I recall "Gentle Jesus, meek and mild, Look upon a little child, Pity my simplicity, Suffer me to come to thee"

followed later by the Lord's Prayer. 83 years in Providence my spiritual home, closed now for a year due to this Pandemic.

220 NHS staff have died in treating patients.

As of last Sunday 127,000 have died from the virus in UK. 4,37 million been infected, 2.6 million deaths across 20 countries

I have been tested. How can my loving God allow this awful virus?

Does this make me a doubting Derek?

Then I look at nurses, doctors dressed like space men, working to mental fatigue and exhaustion, holding a dying patient's hand in their last moments of life, My appreciation for the circuit online services, Pauline and I join weekly appreciating the technical team making it possible

How I look forward to receiving Helen's weekly email and the perils of Pat always ending with a message.

I have accepted there will be change. When we return to church in May it will be different,

Will some folk still be concerned and choose not to come, I do miss the older favourite hymns

But I Sing the hymn today, although a bit short on breath at the moment

“Through all the changing scenes of life,

In trouble and in joy,

The praises of my God shall still

My heart and tongue employ.”

Derek