

*For the Communities Surrounding*

**St John's Charfield**

**Holy Trinity Rangeworthy**

**St Giles Hillesley**

**St Mary's Kingswood**

**Holy Trinity Wickwar**

*Passion Sunday*

Some thoughts, prayers and readings  
to enable us to 'be' church wherever we are.

*Our Churches are closed but Church can still exist.  
Friendship and fellowship can still flourish.*

**In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My Comforter, my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**



A line from that song says: Here in the love of Christ I stand.  
Wherever *geographically* 'here' is for you, as you read this or watch our video on Facebook,  
we are brought together in the nearness of God's presence.

**'Here' in God's love is our common ground**

*You may wish to light a candle or a night light  
to realise the light of Christ, the light of hope and the light of faith.*

*We come from scattered lives to meet with God.*

*Let us recognise God's presence with us now.*

*Keep a short silence, still your heart.*

*As God's people we have gathered in spirit and in truth;*

*Let us worship God now together,  
Sitting apart, yet joined in prayer.*

**An opening prayer**

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people  
and kindle in us the fire of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

***We say sorry to God:***

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins.

For turning away from you, and ignoring your will for our lives;

For behaving just as we wish, without thinking of you;

For failing you by what we do and think and say;

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son;

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins,  
and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Father, forgive us: save us and help us.**

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## Psalm 130

- 1 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.
- 2 If you, Lord, were to mark  
what is done amiss, •  
O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 But there is forgiveness with you, •  
so that you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; •  
in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the Lord,  
more than the night watch  
for the morning, •
- 6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, •  
for with the Lord there is mercy;
- 7 With him is plenteous redemption •  
and he shall redeem Israel  
from all their sins.

## The Prayers:

We pray for others in the quiet of our hearts.  
“Lord, meet us in the silence  
And hear our prayer.”

Pray for yourself, that God would sit with you  
Pray for others in their loneliness  
Pray for our country  
Pray for the world

For God has said, ‘I will not leave you or forsake you’ so we can confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear’. (Hebrews 13:5-6)

It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not be dismayed. (Deuteronomy 31:8)

## Pause for thought:

This Sunday 29th April is known as Passion Sunday, starting a little season known as Passiontide to take us through to Easter Day.

The word passion has its origin in words related to suffering, *more to the point*, a suffering that comes from things beyond our control. And so as the bible was translated from Greek to Latin and then to countless other languages this word passion pierces through carrying with it that meaning, the idea of suffering, and relating that to the final weeks of Jesus’ life, as we move towards Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and eventually Easter Day. *This seasonal journey is one of remembrance and retelling of our faith story; A recalling of Jesus’ experience*, but it is also one of relating our experiences, to our faith, and looking for hope.

We live life, at the moment, unusually, and differently, and in many cases, with some suffering.

The number of times I have heard the phrase ‘strange times’ used recently is quite something.

It is daunting and we need a sense of that hope before us.

Passion Sunday symbolically begins our journey towards the cross, knowing the truth of the empty tomb and the new life that is to follow.

### *As our saviour taught us so we pray*

**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.**

Faithful God, may we who share in this time of worship  
Glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Our salvation and hope, who reigns as Lord now and forever.  
Fill us, Good Lord with your Spirit of love;  
And as you have fed us with your presence,  
so, make us one in heart and mind,  
In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May your blessing go with us,  
and all who we love,  
this day and for evermore. Amen

Let us bless the Lord:  
*Thanks be to God.*

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