Second Sunday of Easter, All Age Worship at Home
19th April 2020

You may wish to prepare for Sunday Morning Prayer by lighting a candle, and you might also wish to have some wine and bread to hand (though this is optional. You might find it helpful at key points in our worship (especially as we are not meeting together) to cross yourself, those prayers are marked with a “+”. Children might like to practice this in advance.

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

The Prayers of Penitence
Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.
Amen.

Kyrie Eleison
Like Mary at the empty tomb,
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.
Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Like the disciples behind locked doors,
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.
Christ, have mercy
Christ, have mercy

Like Thomas in the upper room,
we are slow to believe.
Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

God Forgives
+
Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom
that cannot be destroyed,
forgive you your sins,
open your eyes to God’s will
and give you the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.
The Collect
Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.
Amen.

The Bible Story
You will need to read John 20:19-end from your own bible, or read the following:

Seeing is Believing...

The first Sunday after Jesus had been crucified, Jesus disciples were together for the evening in a locked room. They were hiding because they were afraid that those who had crucified Jesus would also want to put them to death.

Suddenly, Jesus appeared there in the locked room with the disciples. It was hard to believe, but they saw him and Jesus showed them his wounds in his hands and his side, so they knew it was him.

One of the disciples, whose name was Thomas, was not with the others when Jesus appeared to them. When they told Thomas that they had seen Jesus, he did not believe them. He had seen him crucified and buried, so how could he be alive? Thomas said, "Unless I see the wound in his side and put my finger in the holes where the nails were in his hands, I will not believe it!"

A week later, the disciples were in the locked room again and this time Thomas was with them. Again, Jesus came and stood among the disciples. Jesus, said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas fell on his knees and answered Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"
Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Responding

1. You might want to talk about who Jesus is referring to when he talks about those who have not seen and yet have believed.
   a. That includes the generations before us who have passed on the faith for 2000 years.
   b. That includes us!
2. We sometimes say someone is a Doubting Thomas if they are unreasonably sceptical and won't believe what people tell them. Is this fair on St Thomas?
   a. The other disciples hadn't needed to make the leap of faith as Thomas was being asked too,
   b. St Thomas was the first person to ever proclaim that Jesus was not just his Lord, but also his God.
3. Jesus appearing to his disciples changed their lives and encouraged them to change the world.
   Jesus is with us, supporting us, and wants us to care for the world, as he cares for us. In what ways might we care for the world?
4. You should have received Junior Church resources. If you are not receiving them and you would like to, please do get in touch.
Prayers of Intercession

If you would rather, please do say your own prayers at this point

Father,
we give thanks for all you have done for us,
for your son, and all Jesus has done for us
and for the life and witness of the Saints
who have passed down the faith from generation to generation.
Please help us to play our part in passing on the Christian faith
to the generations that will follow us.

Amen.

Lord of life
We pray for all who bring your word of life
as a light to those who don’t know you.
We pray for those who are afraid and feeling hopeless.
We pray for those who are lonely,
or can’t remember the last time someone hugged them.
We pray for those who are in pain or suffering.
We pray for all those for whom we love and care.

Amen.

A Coronavirus Prayer

Ever present God,
be with us in our isolation,
be close to us in our distancing,
be healing in our sickness,
be joy in our sadness,
be light in our darkness,
be wisdom in our confusion,
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,
that when the doors reopen we may with the zeal of Pentecost
inhabit our communities and speak of your goodness to an emerging world.
For Jesus’ sake.

Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

And, drawing all our prayers together into one, let us pray as our saviour has taught us:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.

Amen.
Preparation of the Table
If you are receiving your own bread and/or wine, in communion with others doing so around the parish, you might then like to pray:

Jesus, true vine and bread of life,
ever giving yourself
that the world might live,
let us share your death and passion:
make us perfect in your love.
Amen.

Post Communion Collect.
If you are receiving your own bread and/or wine, you might then like to pray:

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

A Blessing
May Christ, who out of defeat
brings new hope and a new future,
fill you with his new life;
and may the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon us and remain with us always.
Amen.