



## Sunday Service

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – The Fifth Sunday of Easter

### Opening Prayer

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life:  
give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God our Father. Amen.

### Bible reading

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”  
“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”  
Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”  
Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”  
He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”  
Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”  
The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”  
Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”  
Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

John 21 : 15 - 19

### Reflection : Feed my sheep

- Our past failures don't prohibit us from serving God today.
- Do you love me? The key question, but what does it mean? Not mere charity but self-giving love (agape).
- Jesus' message is consistent throughout John's Gospel (1 : 43b) 'Finding Philip, he (Jesus) said to him, "Follow me."' There is a reminder in these verses that we cannot do this in our strength.
- The focus is starting to shift from the events of Easter towards Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit (the helper).

### A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious, be with all those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort knowing nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

### Final prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life:  
grant us through your Holy Spirit to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever. Amen.

### Blessing

And now, may God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory,  
give us joy and peace this Easter time.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us now and evermore. Amen.