

**Service Sheet for Live Stream Service @ Ten – St Beale’s
online community of St Peter’s Church, Wrecclesham**

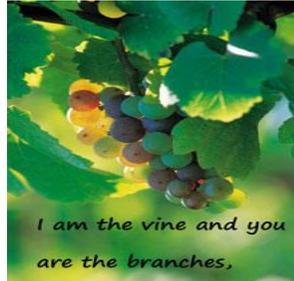
The Fifth Sunday after Easter – 2 May 2021

Acts 8.26-40; Psalm 22.25-31; 1 John 4.7-21; **John 15.1-8**

COMMUNION FOR ALL AGES

Staying connected...

- In what situations do you feel most connected to God?
- When do you feel least connected?
- What can help you to remain in the right place to grow and flourish?



PREPARING THE SPACE...

Please feel free to message and commune during the service as you are so inspired to do. There will be people you recognise who are gathered with you and feel free to say hello to them and to say hello to those whom you don't yet know ☺ Perhaps you might like to light a candle, still yourself as you listen to the music, and allow yourself to take time out and rest in the peace of the time to come as we gather together to worship, reflect and pray....

Let's give thanks that as St Beale's online community, we join as one with St Peter's as a Church family together in fellowship.

Please feel free to join in – we say together the words as indicated

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

A CORONAVIRUS PRAYER FOR HOPE

All: Almighty and merciful Father, who show your love to all your creation. As we ease out of lockdown, we come before you asking your blessing on our efforts to control of the Coronavirus through vaccination, social distancing and responsible action. We pray for the relevant governments and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people.

We pray for those affected by the virus all over the world. Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation and comfort to the bereaved families. Look upon us in your mercy and love, Amen.

Opening prayer

God of our days and years, we set this time apart for you. Form us in the likeness of Christ so that our lives may reflect your love and glory. **Amen**

OPENING HYMN – led by St Martin's Voices

Alleluia, Alleluia! hearts to heaven and voices raise; sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise: he who on the Cross a victim for the world's salvation bled, Jesus Christ the King of glory, now is risen from the dead.

Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits of the holy harvest field, which will all its full abundance at his second coming yield;
then the golden ears of harvest will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine, from the furrows of the grave.

Christ is risen, we are risen; shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain and dew, and gleams of glory from the brightness of thy face;
that we, with our hearts in heaven, here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel-hands be gathered, and be ever, Lord, with thee.

Alleluia, Alleluia, glory be to God on high; Alleluia to the Saviour, who has gained the victory; Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity; Alleluia, Alleluia, to the Triune Majesty.

The Lord be with you - **and also with you.**

Confession - *We say sorry to God for wrong things thought, or said, or done.*

Out of the depths I have called to you, Lord.

Let your ears be open to hear my voice.

My hope is in God's word and God's love.

Let us pray.

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

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

Father, forgive us - **Save us and help us.**

For failing you by what we think and say;

Father, forgive us - **Save us and help us.**

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you by temptations in the world around us,

Father, forgive us - **Save us and help us.**

For living our lives as if we were ashamed to belong to Jesus, your Son;

Father, forgive us - **Save us and help us.**

The Priest speaks God's words of forgiveness.. (Absolution)

The Gloria

We join our voices - just as the angels joined voices at the birth of Jesus. We worship and give God the glory, saying.....

All: Glory to the Lord God almighty; who was, and is, and is to come;
Glory to the Lord. Amen

The Collect- The special prayer for the day.

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. **Amen**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

We hear readings from the Bible, and in a moment of quiet we are encouraged to think about them, what they mean for us and how we might respond.

First Reading: Acts 8.26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' ³¹He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: 1 John 4.7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to

love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has

to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

HYMN: Sung by St Martin's Voices

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them. They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? *Chorus*

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? *Chorus*

Gospel Reading: John 15.1-8

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: ¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither

can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**

TALK

Affirming our Faith

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in Heaven and earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Prayers for the Church, the world and those in need

We are led in our prayers, and make them our own by joining in with the response.

The response to 'Lord, in your mercy'
is '**hear our prayer**'

At the end of the prayers we say together

O Lord, hear my prayer, when I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, come and listen to me.

THE COMMUNION

The Peace (we acknowledge peace for each other in our hearts)

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you - **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

HYMN: Led by Jonathan and Naomi

(Offerings can be left in the plate or made by card via our contactless Goodbox - both are at the back of the church. Online offerings and donations can be made via our Just Giving page on the website or on the St Beale's Facebook Page. We are most grateful for all offerings, especially at this challenging time)

Chorus: A new commandment I give unto you, That you love one another as I have loved you, That you love one another as I have loved you.

By this shall all men know that you are My disciples,
if you have love one for another. (Repeat)

You are my friends if you do what I command you.
Without my help you can do nothing. (Repeat)

I am the true vine, my Father is the gard'ner,
Abide in me; I will be with you. (Repeat)

True love is patient, not arrogant nor boastful;
Love bears all things, love is eternal. (Repeat)

*During the hymn, the table is prepared and bread and wine are placed on it.
Our money gifts are offered to God with a prayer of blessing*

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.

You embraced us as your children and welcomed us to sit and eat with you

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

He opened his arms of love upon the cross and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his body is the bread of life.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine he gave you thanks, and said: "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me."

Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his blood is shed for all.

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

*All: Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty who was, and is, and is to come;
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.*

Blessed, is He who comes; in the Lord's name, Hosanna in the highest heaven!
Blessed, blessed, blessed is the Lord.

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit

that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms. And now with all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer – we say together:

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.

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us and
receive our prayer:

We say together:

Worthy is the Lamb, the Lord God Almighty
who was, and is, and is to come; worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord.

Breaking of the bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Draw near with faith; receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave
for you and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that
he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*(Jesus Christ offered his body and shed his blood – on behalf of those not here
in person, the President receives these sacraments in honour and remembrance
that Jesus died for us all... People at home are invited to open hands and heart
to receive our Lord Jesus Christ spiritually, as we all feed on him in our hearts by
faith with thanksgiving.)*

We all say together:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given us, for
all the pains and insults you have borne for us. As we receive these sacraments
spiritually or physically, we ask you to come into our hearts.

O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may we know you more clearly,
love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN (one or two will be sung) – led by St Martin's Voices

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here; come bow before
Him now with reverence and fear. In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy
ground; be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around; He burns with holy fire,
with splendour He is crowned. How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of
light! Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place; He comes to cleanse
and heal, to minister His grace. No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from
Him; be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

At the end of communion the table is cleared and a prayer is said:

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us
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**

THE SENDING OUT

Notices are given

The Blessing

We are sent out from our worship to live for God in the power of the Holy Spirit.

HYMN (499) – Led by St Martin's Voices

O LORD my God! When I in awesome wonder Consider all the works Thy hand
hath made; I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great
Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing
sweetly in the trees; when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze:

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, sent Him to die - I scarce can
take it in: that on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin:

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home - what joy
shall fill my heart! Then shall I bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God how great Thou art!

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Final Music: TBC

God Bless, and prayers for safekeeping and wellbeing go with you
from Revs Sandy and Jacqueline