

17th May 2020

Hearsall at Home

Hello, and welcome to Hearsall at Home.

We hope that you listen to this service either on a Sunday morning, or at another time, and you will worship, sing, pray and reflect on the scriptures along with all of us.

A written copy of the service is also available as a download on our website, so if you know anyone who would like that please let us know.

We're delighted to welcome Colin Holtum from All Saints parish church in Allesley as our guest preacher and his wife Fey, who will also take part.

Today we share in Holy Communion, so please have some bread and wine or juice to hand so you can take part. When we share the peace together, you might want to post a photo or a message on our *The Week Online* whatsapp group - let me know if you'd like to join the group.

After the service I now have a room for twelve visiting cameras at [whereby.com/sutcliffechat](https://www.whereby.com/sutcliffechat). Why not join me with your cup of coffee?

So sit down, relax and prepare yourself to worship God with us.

17th May 2020 Holy Communion
Locked in, Looking out, Looking up!

Call to worship: Psalm 103: 13 - 18

As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;
for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.
The life of mortals is like grass,
they flourish like a flower of the field;
the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.
But from everlasting to everlasting
the Lord's love is with those who fear him,
and his righteousness with their children's children –
with those who keep his covenant
and remember to obey his precepts.

Hymn (BPW 65)

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to his feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him, still the same as ever,
slow to blame and swift to bless;
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us,
All our weaknesses he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;
you behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
all that is in time and space.
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
praise with us the God of grace.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come; your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever. Amen.

Prayer of praise and thanksgiving (written by Angela Ashwin)

My Father, you have carried me through all my wanderings
and loved me through my rebelliousness.
I praise you.
You have given me untold riches:
friends to love;
beauty to enjoy;
quiet spaces.
I praise you for life on this planet;
for trust between people;
and for the unimaginable gift of the gospel.
Keep me thankful all my days,
that, against all the odds,
I may never lose sight
of hope and delight. Amen

Poem

Fey Holtum reads *Benedictus* by John O Donohue

This is the time to be slow,
Lie low to the wall
Until the bitter weather passes.

Try, as best you can,
not to let
The wire brush of doubt
Scrape from your heart
All sense of yourself
And your hesitant light.

If you remain generous,
Time will come good;
And you will find your feet
Again on fresh pastures of promise,
Where the air will be kind
And blushed with beginning.

We sing a song of gratitude to God: *Give thanks with a grateful heart.*

Song (WT 107)

Give thanks with a grateful heart;
give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong";
let the poor say, "I am rich
because of what the Lord has done for us".
And now let the weak say, "I am strong",
let the poor say, "I am rich
because of what the Lord has done for us".
Give thanks.

Behind Closed Doors

This week Roger Woodward shares how he's getting on Behind Closed Doors.

Welcome to number 5. It seems a long time now since we invited someone into our home. So don't stand on the doorstep; come inside and see what we have been up to over these last weeks.

When we realized that we could be confined to our home for several weeks we decided that it would be important to have some kind of daily timetable however loose that might be. A time when we would get some exercise, a time to catch upon all those practical jobs that needed to be done, a time in the study/hobbies room, a system of keeping in contact with our many friends etc etc.

Sylvia has always been good at making lists, list of things to do particularly if we have someone coming for a meal or to stay overnight, holiday list, things we must not forget to do before we go and things we must take with us. And so we set too and made our lists.

I found, and still find it difficult to accept that we are in the group of people to be helped when we feel we should be in the group doing the helping. This was not helped when our very thoughtful neighbour, who is ten years our junior, put a note through our door saying if they could do anything to help us in these difficult days we only had to ask.

We would get up about 7.00am and go out for a walk before there were many people on the streets. Here we reconnect with nature. Because of the lack of traffic, we heard the songs of the birds more clearly, identifying those calls was not always easy. We had time to look more carefully into the hedgerows and see all the new plants waking up from their winter sleep. Sylvia took many photographs that she will use later in making birthday cards for the family. We have seen a Woodpecker and a Nuthatch in the garden and two Kites hovering over the

open space at the back of our house. Perhaps because of the lack of traffic noise and sounds these birds have ventured into the city.

Then to some practical jobs. The timber of the shed and the summer house needed to be treated. A job I would normally do in a day but because I knew we would have plenty of time I stretched it out to three-part days. Sylvia was also busy in the garden. The fuchsias we had kept over the winter needed attention, flower beds needed to be cleared and tidied, plants needed pruning and so the garden began to look cared for again. Inside and to the list of people we needed to keep in contact with particularly those who were living on their own. So sometime on the telephone listening to what others have been doing and sharing what little news we had. It was interesting to hear how other people had been filling their time at home, Morning coffee and afternoon tea took a little longer than had been the normal. We had defrosted the freezer and found several cakes that Sylvia had made "in case someone dropped in on us" we decided these needed eating up hence afternoon tea was more than just a cuppa.

When we were in Birmingham Sylvia started a UFO group which met once a month at our house. Ladies were invited for a drink and chat evening and to bring any UnFinished Objects, any piece of craft that needed to be finished. Here over chat and refreshments these objects would move nearer completion. Sylvia still has many UFO and has returned to these over these last few days. All was going so well until Easter Saturday when I overbalanced backwards in the garden, fell on the rockery and broke two ribs, I heard the nurses at the hospital referring to me on several occasions as a 77yr, old gentleman. The gentleman sat comfortably with me but I did not like being reminded of my age.

This changed our priorities. A few days doing very little except trying to read and watching television. Then high on pain killing drugs it was back to the lists but at a much steady pace. For those people for whom I have an email address, a telephone call became a Jacquie Lawson greeting cards. Via online shopping I was able to get some plants and compost and have made up two hanging baskets. Varnishing the window frames of the Summer House was a much longer job than it would normally have been.

What have I missed most? I have spent a great proportion of my life working on my own and so solitude is not difficult for me, in fact I enjoy being alone but only for so long. I do crave the company of other people, the conversations, the banter, the laughter, the challenge of other peoples' thinking.

Thanks for accepting the invitation to come behind our front door. We hope that in the not too distant future such a visit in reality will be possible.

Prayers of intercession

Our prayers today are written and read by one of our deacons, Sarah Lewis

As we enter a new phase in living with this pandemic, we turn to you as we know that only with your guidance will we find a way through. Some of us may be anxious, others may be excited, some may see no way out, whilst others can't wait to get out!

Lord, for people who are anxious, possibly ourselves, we ask for your calm, and for others to be kind and patient.

Lord, for those who are eager and excited and wish to rush to return to their normality, possibly ourselves, we ask for your patience to come to them and for others to be understanding, especially where a person's livelihood may be threatened. We ask for strength to all pull together to defeat this evil.

For those whose lives have been devastated by the premature loss of a loved one, perhaps ourselves or someone we know, we ask for your comfort to surround them. Guide them to focus on happy days rather than on recent experiences. Lord we know that this virus has frequently denied people the opportunity to say goodbye to their relatives in a way that would normally happen. Lord support all those who have been touched in this way.

Lord we know that people are living with social isolation with varying degrees of acceptance and toleration. We pray in particular for people who are now facing domestic abuse and violence and feel trapped, not just by the virus but by the situation they find themselves in. Lord, guide them to see that there is a way through this and that there are sources of help. Lord use us to be torch lights to a safe place.

Lord we pray for children who have been denied seeing their loved ones, playing or just meeting with their friends. We think in particular those who would have been celebrating transition to a new school or their prom. We pray that they may not be affected in the long term and thank you Lord for the wonders of electronic communication and the skill of their teachers who have supported them whilst in the home environment. Lord, we pray they will soon rediscover their youth and look forward to bright futures.

Lord, we focus beyond our country and indeed our continent. We know we are fortunate we have good sanitation, living conditions and skilled people to care for us if we are sick. We think and pray for those living in refugee camps, in slum conditions, sometimes in sewers or gutters. Lord, let them feel your love and your hope for a brighter future amongst all they are facing.

And Lord let now not be the time for international recriminations, blame or egos. Let the nations of the world unite behind this struggle to beat the pandemic. Lord we ask for your healing powers to help this to happen.

Lord, we focus our hopes on finding a cure, treatment or a vaccine to combat the pandemic. We ask your skill to be with the scientists and the doctors, the laboratory technicians and anyone who is contributing to this fight.

Almighty Lord, we turn to you in this time of crisis as we as Christians know that you are our one salvation. We remember that God is with us always.

Amen

Thank you for those very helpful prayers, Sarah.

Offering

Loving Lord, life itself is a precious gift from you.
Each sunrise is a present reminding us of your goodness;
each meal is a token of your tender care;
and every loving face is a sign of your generous heart.
Take our own gifts, to church, charity and friends;
gifts of time, skills and money;
and use them all to remind people of your wonderful love.
Amen.

Song (WT 210)

In my life Lord
Be glorified be glorified
In my life Lord
Be glorified today

In my song Lord
Be glorified be glorified
In my song Lord
Be glorified today

In Your church Lord
Be glorified be glorified
In Your church Lord
Be glorified today

In my heart Lord
Be glorified be glorified
In my heart Lord
Be glorified today

In my home Lord
Be glorified be glorified
In my home Lord
Be glorified today

And now we hear two Bible readings, from Leviticus and Acts.

Readings

Leviticus 13; 1 - 8

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 2 'When anyone has a swelling or a rash or a shiny spot on their skin that may be a defiling skin disease, they must be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons who is a priest. 3 The priest is to examine the sore on the skin, and if the hair in the sore has turned white and the sore appears to be more than skin deep, it is a defiling skin disease. When the priest examines that person, he shall pronounce them ceremonially unclean. 4 If the shiny spot on the skin is white but does not appear to be more than skin deep and the hair in it has not turned white, the priest is to isolate the affected

person for seven days. 5 On the seventh day the priest is to examine them, and if he sees that the sore is unchanged and has not spread in the skin, he is to isolate them for another seven days. 6 On the seventh day the priest is to examine them again, and if the sore has faded and has not spread in the skin, the priest shall pronounce them clean; it is only a rash. They must wash their clothes, and they will be clean. 7 But if the rash does spread in their skin after they have shown themselves to the priest to be pronounced clean, they must appear before the priest again. 8 The priest is to examine that person, and if the rash has spread in the skin, he shall pronounce them unclean; it is a defiling skin disease.

Acts 16: 16 - 34

16 Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. 17 She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, 'These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.' 18 She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned round and said to the spirit, 'In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!' At that moment the spirit left her.

19 When her owners realised that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place to face the authorities. 20 They brought them before the magistrates and said, 'These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar 21 by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practise.'

22 The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. 23 After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. 24 When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. 27 The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul shouted, 'Don't harm yourself! We are all here!'

29 The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 He then brought them out and asked, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'

31 They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.' 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. 33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptised. 34 The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God – he and his whole household.

And now O Lord, we thank you for the message prepared for us in your name by our brother Colin. We pray that as we reflect on his words today, we may hear your living word speaking a fresh message of life and hope in these troubled times. Amen.

Sermon

Locked in, Looking out, Looking up!

Good Morning. These are interesting times and it's so good to have another opportunity to share with you, our friends at Hearsall Baptist. My name is Colin Holtum, and together with my wife Fey, we served as missionaries in Kenya for twelve years. Whenever we were back in Coventry on furlough we used to come regularly to worship with you, leading services or preaching in those distant days before David joined you as minister. Our granddaughter, Zoe, her husband Andrew, and our great granddaughters, Florence and Beatrice are well known to you all, so we feel you're almost family. We bring you greetings from our church, All Saints, Allesley and especially from Alireza, an Iranian Christian, who we baptised in your pool last February, just before lockdown.

Lock down, now there's a word high in all our thinking these days. Quite early on in the process I found myself thinking whether there were any Bible guidelines for how to live under these restrictions. The more I thought, the more stories there were that came to mind, and I'd like to think about some of the lessons we could learn that might help us cope with this new normal that's likely to be around for some time. At least until we find a vaccine against Covid-19, and drugs that will effectively treat anyone who gets infected in future.

First example of social distancing. Hiding from God in the Garden. Sin causes us to draw away. All have sinned. Plants towards the light to reach full potential.

Unlike us Noah seemed to have plenty of preparation time to get ready for his cataclysmic event. Of course He was listening to, and being guided by God in all his preparations, something I feel our, and other world governments failed to do. Noah and his family entered the ark with all the animals and a month and a half of torrential rain fell before the ark floated away on the waters. Then they spent another 5 months in total lockdown. Not a furlough spending time twiddling their thumbs, but a very busy schedule. Can you imagine organising rotas to feed, muck out and care for all those animals? Trying to prevent lions leaping on llamas, or macaws munching millipedes. No, I don't think it was a restful time. One of the ways we've been encouraged to tackle lockdown is to get ourselves a routine. Scheduling regular tasks, planning to talk with friends and family on-line and ensuring times of exercise and rest to ensure we don't go stir-crazy.

The next event I thought of was Passover. Again God's people had to follow careful instructions from Him through Moses. They needed to shut themselves away whilst the plague which destroyed all the first-born of the Egyptians swept through the land. If the Israelites had not followed the rules, staying indoors and marking the door of the house with the blood shed from the sacrificed lamb it's certain that they too would have lost children to the angel of death.

In the Old Testament we read part of the rules that Moses drew up to guide the community and we see that there was provision for isolating those who carried likely disease to prevent

its spread amongst other people. They even involved the priests as the drop-in testing centres of the day and gave instructions as to what needed to happen before isolation could be lifted. In times of community threat all of us have to obey the rules and submit to checks set by leadership to ensure an eventual outcome that is best for everyone.

The book of Job also aroused some thoughts. Because of the tragedy that God permitted to come into Job's life, the loss of wealth, the death of his children which threatened the end of his family line and his own terrible skin disease, you can understand why Job chose to isolate himself. When his friends arrived to sympathise with Job they were so horrified by the situation that they could only sit in silence with him for seven days. I presume operating appropriate social distancing measures. Sometimes the only thing we can do in some situations is just 'be there for people. We need to identify with them, sit and listen and strongly resist the temptation to find a fix. Eventually Job's friends couldn't resist the temptation to pass judgement on him and adopt the role of 'comforters'.

These days I often notice how the media turn from initial support and sympathy to begin asking questions that seek to apportion blame. I get really annoyed when people who are trying their hardest are then, often with the benefit of hindsight, called to account for decisions which were taken after considerable thought. As though in some way they are responsible for the pandemic in the first place. Whilst we do need to learn lessons during this pandemic we also need to be supportive of one another and work together as community to see us through this crisis, without slipping into the temptation to blame individuals.

My thoughts then moved to the New Testament and I remember How Jesus dealt with the socially excluded. He was very much a front-line worker as He ministered to the possessed, those cast out with leprosy, and those ostracised by society like the Samaritan woman and the lady with the haemorrhage problem. It's a timely reminder for us now that as well as caring for community we must also seek to meet the needs of individuals during these uncertain times.

Now we're in that season of the church year between Passion and Pentecost where we see that the Disciples socially isolated themselves; initially behind 'locked doors for fear of the Jews' and then only going out cautiously after the Ascension whilst they waited in Jerusalem for the promised Holy Spirit. I imagine them getting a bit impatient during those six weeks as they waited for news of what was going on and what plans should they make. I'm similarly impatient at this time and I've found myself needing to catch up with unfolding events by watching the daily government briefing. Every time the specialists appear they speak from a podium carrying the strap line of the Government's response to Covid-19. There has been quite strong debate this week as to whether the original *Stay Home – Protect the NHS – Save Lives* should have been replaced by the new phrase, *Stay Alert - Control the Virus – Save lives*.

At the beginning of the shut-down I felt God was asking me to also keep another strap-line in mind. It was *Locked In – Look Up – Look out* and the scripture I was led to was Acts 16, the New Testament reading we heard earlier. Paul and Silas are with others are on mission in Macedonia. They arrive at Philippi and their message of salvation begins to bear fruit. Lyddia, a rich business woman, is converted and others start to gather regularly for prayer. Opposition begins when a young demon-possessed slave girl starts prophesying and

disrupts their meeting. So Paul delivers her. Her owners who had now lost the profits brought in by her fortune-telling complain to the civil authorities and have Paul and Silas arrested, flogged and thrown in jail with their feet bound in chains. They found themselves beat up and locked in through no fault of their own.

You could perhaps expect them to be despondent or angry at God because they were only doing what He'd led them to do. But no, at midnight we find them looking up to God and leading a Prayer and Praise Revival meeting with the other prisoners joining in. A 'fortuitous' earthquake then destroys the prison and frees them from their chains. The jailer thinks that all his prisoners will have escaped and is about to kill himself because he knows the council will blame him and take terrible revenge on him and his family. Paul calls out to stop him. Imagine his amazement when he calls for lanterns and finds everyone hasn't run away. Not only is the scene illuminated, but his heart is also, and he asks what he must do to be saved. Paul was locked in, but he looked up to God and then looked out for those around him. That seems to be Godly advice to us as we go through lock down and the restrictions imposed on us through no fault of our own. We may be locked in but let's look up to God and let's look out for others. Let's also rise up with faith believing that God will again use calamity to bring in His kingdom.

God Bless you all, and God keep you safe.

Thanks Colin for that very helpful message. And now, as we turn our attention to sharing the Lord's supper, we sing, *Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us.*

Hymn (BPW 444)

Lord Jesus Christ,
You have come to us,
You are one with us,
Mary's son;
Cleansing our souls from all their sin,
Pouring your love and goodness in,
Jesus, our love for you we sing,
Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,
Now and every day
Teach us how to pray,
Son of God
You have commanded us to do
This, in remembrance, Lord, of you;
Into our lives your power breaks through,
Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,
You have come to us,
Born as one of us,
Mary's son,
Led out to die on Calvary,

Risen from death to set us free,
Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,
I would come to you,
Live my life for you,
Son of God;
All your command I know are true;
Your many gifts will make me new;
Into my life your power breaks through,
Living Lord.

Communion

I give you a very warm invitation to share in the Lord's Supper from the comfort of your own homes. If you have a little faith in a great God, you are welcome to share with us all, seeking forgiveness for our sins, experiencing the intimacy of his presence, sharing a close fellowship across different places, and being filled with resurrection hope for life's continuing journey.

Let us begin by acknowledging our need of Christ's mercy.
Loving Lord, we sometimes give way to apathy.
Hopeful Lord, we sometimes yield to despair.
Truthful Lord, we sometimes fail to live up to reality.
Gracious Lord, we sometimes bear grudges.
Patient Lord, we sometimes lose our temper.
Sweet Lord, we sometimes speak bitter words.
For these and all our sins forgive us through the merits of Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord, who died to make us clean and rose again to make us whole. Amen.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:16-17)

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved. (Ephesians 2: 4 - 5)

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. (Colossians 3: 12 - 15)

As Christ's body, we belong together in peace and we know that peace, whether we be physically near or far. Why not send a message of peace to a sister or a brother right now? You could greet anyone who may be in lockdown with you; you could even text or whatsapp or email a message or a picture to friends in other houses...

The peace of the Lord be with us all! Amen.
Peace, I give to you, I give to you, my peace!
Let it flow to one another, let it flow! Let it flow!

Let us hear the words of the institution of the Lord's Supper.
For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11: 23 - 26)

Let us pray.
Heavenly Father we thank you for the simple gifts of bread and wine. They tell us of the earth's bounty and human skill.
Heavenly Father we thank you for the simple gifts of bread and wine. They tell us of human fellowship and shared joy.
Heavenly Father we thank you for the simple gifts of bread and wine. They tell of your Son's body and blood, given for our redemption.
Heavenly Father we thank you for the simple gifts of bread and wine. They tell us of heaven's coming banquet when all shall be gathered in peace.
Now as we take this bread and wine into our bodies, enter our lives, nourish our spirits and bind our hearts to you and one another in perfect love. Amen.

Let us lift up our bread. The Lord Jesus, on the night that he was betrayed, took bread and broke it and said, this is my body, given for you. Bless us now O Lord as we take the bread and eat with deep reverence and sincere love, communing with you, with one another, and with the saints scattered across space and time.

Let us lift up our cup. In the same way after supper Jesus took the cup and said, 'This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.' Bless us now, O Lord, as we take the cup and drink with penitent spirits and glad hearts, looking back to the victory of the cross and forward to the glad songs of heaven.

Most gracious Lord, we thank you that nothing can separate us from your love: no lockdown, no virus, no social distancing. We look up and find your presence cheering us on. We look out and picture our sisters and brothers, in separate houses, united in love. We look within and sense your Holy Spirit filling us with resurrection power. We are your beloved children! We rejoice! We praise you! We bless you! And we ask that we may live as friends beloved of you and of one another this day and forever more. Amen.

Song

I looked up, and I saw my Lord a-coming x2
down the road.

Alleluia he is coming!
Alleluia he is here!

I looked up, and I saw my Lord a-weeping x2
for my sins.

I looked up and I saw my Lord a-dying x 2
on the cross.

I looked up and I saw my Lord a-rising x2
from the grave.

I looked up and I saw my Lord a-reigning x2
In his power!

The Grace & Sung Blessing

The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ;
the love of God;
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all
now and always. Amen.

Sung blessing

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you
wherever he may send you;
may he guide you through the wilderness,
protect you through the storm;
may he bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders he has shown you;
may he bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors.

We're so grateful to Colin and Fey for sharing in our worship today. I'm delighted that all of us have been able to share in holy communion together once more. Stay strong! Stay safe! Look up! Look out! And be blessed, not stressed!