

SOUTH WOLD DEANERY



The Sixth Sunday of Easter
A Service of the Word

WELCOME

Alleluia Christ is risen

ALL He is risen indeed. Alleluia

O Lord, open our eyes to your presence

Open our minds to your grace

Open our lips to your praises

Open our hearts to your love

Open our lives to your healing

All And be found among us. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We come seeking forgiveness for all that we have failed to be and do as members of Christ's body.

In God there is forgiveness

All Loving and all seeing God, forgive us

Where we have fallen short of your image in us

Where we have failed to support one another

And be what we claim to be

Where we have failed to serve you

Where our thoughts and actions fail to reflect your love, we ask your pardon

God forgives us, be at Peace

Rejoice and be glad for Christ is the resurrection,

And offers reconciliation for the whole human race

All We shall be one in Christ, one in our life together.

Praise to God who has created us, accepted us,

And who sends us into the world

THE COLLECT

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Hymn: Be Thou my vision

Ministry of the Word

As we prepare to explore God's word let us pray together

All **May God guide each of us in the way of Christ,
whatever our age or experience.
May the love of God speak to us all**

New testament reading is from Acts 16:9-15

During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn: The Servant King

The Gospel

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All **Glory to you O Lord**

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

"All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

“You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

This is the gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ

Sermon

Hymn: In Christ alone

THE CREED

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**All Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION ending with The Lord's Prayer

**All Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that 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.**

Prayer of commitment

All Living one, creator and lover of the world, we offer our lives to you this day and our life together in you.

Accept us as we are, with all our stumbling and all our courage.

Guide us into what you would have us be. And in the power of the spirit enable us to be a sign of your presence in the world.

In the name of Jesus your living son. Amen.

BLESSING

The blessing of God, ground of being, bread of life and spirit of peace

Rest upon you and all whom you love, both living and departed

Now and always

All **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen**

Hymn: Take My Life and Let it Be