

Readings for the week

Today	Acts 2 v 42 – 47 John 10 v 1 – 10
Monday	Luke 2 v 41 – 52
Tuesday	Luke 3 v 1 – 14
Wednesday	Luke 3 v 15 – 22
Thursday	Luke 4 v 1 – 13
Friday	Luke 4 v 14 – 30
Saturday	Luke 4 v 31 – 37



Prayer

The Ministry Leadership Team would like you to pray for the following topics:

1. Give thanks that the number of people being infected with Covid19 seems to be going down in some countries. Continue to pray for all NHS and care staff looking after those infected with the virus, that they may have all the wisdom, compassion and stamina they need.
2. Pray for all those who still live in fear of being infected, especially those in countries with inadequate health services. May they know God's peace and hope.

Minster Zoom Prayer Gathering - Noon on Tuesday 5 May.

Adrian will host a 30 minute midday prayer gathering to pray for our world, nation, communities, and churches using Zoom video conferencing. Please email Adrian for a link. Participants will also need to download the Zoom App. 'Lord, teach us to pray... using Zoom!'

Giving to your parish churches during Lockdown

Please continue to give regularly or consider increasing your giving to help meet reduced income from other sources. Parish Treasurer contact details:

Alcester - Brian Titterington 01789 763858
Arrow with Weethley - Carolyn Baldwin 01789 762638
Coughton with Sambourne - John McTavish 01789 764703
Haselor - George Gray-Cheape 07711 314157
Kinwarton with Great Alne - Coral Bradley 01789 488551



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Welcome to the Alcester Minster Group of Churches Sunday 03 May 2020

Easter 3 White

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

Acts 2 v 42

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the
resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of
righteousness,
that we may seek those things which
are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Alternative Collect

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your
Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your
command,
that all your people may
be gathered into one
flock,
the glory of God the Father.

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17 Butter Street, Alcester, B49 5AL (Office Opening Hours 10.30 – 12.30pm)

Alcester Minster website: www.alcesterminster.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster

Easter 4 'Thought for the Day' presented by Julie Lindsay

Reading: Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.



Thought for the Day

I am receiving the daily Easter Pilgrim reflections and if you have not come across this, I heartily recommend them to you. It is a 40-day journey through the Lord's Prayer. Each day you receive a short bible reflection, an invitation to pray and a suggestion for responding to the vision of the Lord's Prayer. You can receive them by phone, email, via Alexa/Google Home or a free booklet. Just go to the Church of England website and search for Easter Pilgrim. It's free of charge and you can catch up if you missed the start.

I find it an extremely inspiring, reassuring and comforting way to start each day. I suspect these reflections were prepared prior to the situation we find ourselves in at the moment, but the messages are so relevant that it is clear God was speaking to the authors and guiding their words. Day 3 is entitled "A still small voice of calm" and speaks of how although sometimes our days bring turmoil, sadness or stress the words of the Lord's Prayer can help us to find the still small voice of love at the very heart of who we are: children resting in the grace and love of God.

The psalm for this week is another piece of scripture which speaks to us in troubled times. God promises us in this psalm that he will always be with us and that we can rely and trust in him. God gives us peace even when we are in the midst of conflict as long as we choose to follow the shepherd along the path where he leads. I love to watch sheep – they seem so content and carefree as they munch and amble through a field. Yet, they are vulnerable animals and can aimlessly wander and get themselves in to trouble. They have no defence against predators unless they are together or protected by the shepherd. We are no different, in that during our lives we will face pain, heartache and problems and for many of us these times may be some of the most troubling we will ever live through. Assurance of God's presence does not erase suffering for us, just as it did not for Jesus as he climbed upon the cross. But the words of Psalm 23, like the Lord's Prayer remind and assure us that we will be delivered from evil and harm. Whatever we may face will be defeated by Gods love for us and we will always have the protection of the Good Shepherd.

Prayer

Good shepherd of the flock you tend and feed and protect your chosen people and only ask us to put our trust in your loving care. As host you entertain us and welcome us to your table as you anoint us with your Holy Spirit. Make us ever thankful for all your blessings, O saviour of the world, living and reigning with the Father and the Holy Spirit now and forever.

Amen

**The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not;
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.**

**And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.**

