

## Readings for the week

<b>Today</b>	Acts 17 v 22 - 31 John 14 v 15 - 21
Monday	Luke 6 v 27 - 38
Tuesday	Luke 6 v 39 - 49
Wednesday	Luke 7 v 1 - 10
Thursday	Acts 1 v 1 - 11
Ascension Day	Luke 24 v 44 - 53
Friday	Luke 7 v 11 - 17
Saturday	Luke 7 v 18 - 35



### Prayer

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

1. *Pray for all those feeling isolated, lonely or bored at home (adults and children). May they know the loving presence of God with them.*
2. *Give thanks for all the imaginative, creative ways that people have found to stay connected and to care for those on their own.*

Thursday 21 May is Ascension Day. There will be a short reflection by Revd Julian Davey available on the Alcester Minster website.

There is a new national free dial-in worship available 24 hours a day called **Daily Hope**. The telephone number is 0800 804 8044. *Please share this with anyone you now who is not able to join on-line services.*

Sadly we are not able to attend funerals during this period but there is a prayer card available from the Church of England:  
[https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/Funerals prayer card single public.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/Funerals%20prayer%20card%20single%20public.pdf)

***If you want to volunteer, or need help, contact Alcester Community Resilience on Facebook or Tel: 0770 759 8379 or email Alcester.response@outlook.com***



Did you know that you can now 'LIKE' Alcester Minster on Facebook? Find details and pictures of events at [www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster](https://www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster) If you would like to submit event notices or photos to be published on the page then please email [administrator@alcesterminster.org](mailto:administrator@alcesterminster.org)



## Welcome to the Alcester Minster Group of Churches Sunday 17 May 2020

**Easter 5    White**

*"The God who made the world and everything in it .... he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things."*

Acts 17 v 24a & 25b

### 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.

### Alternative Collect

Risen Christ,  
by the lakeside you  
renewed your call to  
your disciples:  
help your Church to obey  
your command  
and draw the nations to  
the fire of your love,  
to 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](http://www.alcesterminster.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster](https://www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster)

## Easter 5 Thought for the Day' presented by Sue

### Reading: John 14 v.16-20

I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

**New International Version - UK (NIVUK)**

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### Thought for the Day

During the lockdown I have been very blessed in having my nearest and dearest living in the same household. I have people to talk to and people to share the frustrations of the situation. I know this is not the case for everyone. Many people are on their own – their loved ones many miles away – only seen and spoken to by the wonders of modern technology. However good the technology is though – it is not the same as the presence of someone you love with you at home.

In this passage from John's Gospel, Jesus is teaching his disciples about the coming gift of the Holy Spirit, and what will happen after his crucifixion and resurrection. He explained this not with any sort of time-line of events (first the crucifixion, then the resurrection, then the ascension and then Pentecost when the Holy Spirit would come). But instead, in terms of their ongoing relationship of love with him.

The disciples did not realise it yet but their relationship with Jesus was going to be even closer than it was before. After Jesus' death on the cross the disciples felt afraid, abandoned, alone. But here Jesus is promising that he will not leave them as orphans – alone. He will come to them. "On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you." (verse 20). Jesus is describing the disciples'

ongoing relationship with him in the same terms as he talks of his own relationship with the Father – the strongest, most loving relationship he knows. Later on Jesus goes on to say "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." (John 14 v. 23)

Those who know us best, who love us most, are Jesus and God the Father. And here Jesus promises that they will come and make their home with those who love him – with us. Our relationship with Jesus is the closest one we will ever know. He promises to be with us, to make his home with us – to live in us and love us for ever. So wherever we are, whether we are with others or alone, however we feel – anxious, or lonely, or fearful, or just bored – we can know the living, loving, comforting presence of our risen Lord.

Jesus goes on to reassure his disciples (and us): "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.....Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14v.27)

### Prayer

Living and loving Lord, may we know your comforting presence with us each day. Be with those who are lonely or anxious, that they may know your peace in their hearts. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen**

**PS** Look on the website for Julian's **Ascension Day** reflection. (**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>. May**)