

UTG worship for Easter 5

Opening Words

May God be among us throughout this day **Amen**

May Christ be beside us throughout this day **Amen**

May the Spirit be within us throughout this day **Amen**

Let us pray

God of all life, you are the source of all goodness and the satisfaction of all our desires:

Our understanding of you is small – increase it,

Our desire to do your will is weak; enliven it,

The seed you have planted has yet to bear fruit; ripen it,

But first create in us clean hearts,

as in your sight we unburden ourselves of guilt, anger, fear, pride, hardness of heart, weakness of intention.

Jesus Son of Mary

Have mercy upon us

Jesus Saviour of the World

Make peace within us

Christ King of Glory

Be with us and for us wherever life takes us.

In the common path of our calling,

whether it be easy or uneasy to tread,

Whether it be bright or dark to follow,

Let your perfect guidance protect us.

Be a shield against all that might deceive us

Be a healer for all that might harm us

Be a friend to all who are dear to us

this day and until we meet in glory Amen.

Before we read

Listen for the Word which God has spoken

Speak Lord to our speaking, speak Lord to our listening,

speak Lord to our souls' deep understanding.

Today's Gospel John chapter 15 verses 1-8 Jesus said "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

After the reading Let your word live within us faithful God day by day, night by night in our thinking, our speaking, our doing and believing.

Prayers

We unite in Christ around the Lord's table.

The Lord is here **All: His Spirit is with us**

Lift up your hearts **All: We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: It is right to give him 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.

**All: 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.

**All: He opened his arms of love upon the cross
& 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”.

**All: 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”.

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

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.

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

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray together:

**All: 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.

Breaking of bread

Lord, we died with you on the cross.

All: Now we are raised to new life.

Act of Spiritual Communion

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.

**Since we cannot now receive you sacramentally,
we ask you to come spiritually 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.**

Hymn As we are gathered Jesus is here *during which Shirley will take communion on behalf of the people of Upper Thames. Do take grapes or wine to remind of how we are united in Christ as branches are to a vine.*

Blessing Go now, and love one another, because love is from God.

Proclaim God’s salvation to every generation.

Remain in Jesus Christ, and like branches of a vine, draw your life from him. And the blessing of God Almighty...

Dismissal And may God the vine grower tend you & make you fruitful; May Christ Jesus remain in you and give you life; And may the Holy Spirit cast out all fear and fill you with God’s love.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Final Hymn Thy hand O God has guided - reminding us of unity in one Church, one faith, one Lord.