Sunday 19th April 6pm Zoom Service

Prayer Lord as we your Church, your people gather together we hold on to the love or our Father, we share the peace that our Lord Jesus Christ offers us, and we unite by the power of the holy spirit to pray for each other and the world.

Just a moment of quiet as we offer to God our regrets of this week, the actions, words or thoughts.

Lord you died on the cross to bring forgiveness, and you rose again to provide hope and healing and peace. Thank you

Reading John 20 19-31

Reflection Isn’t it amazing when the Bible seems to speak directly into our situation. The disciples were locked in a house scared to go out, fearful not of the coronavirus and the governments social distancing policies but of the Jewish authorities who were out to get them. Jesus came and stood among them. And although we are in separate homes Jesus can come and be with us and look at us and talk to us, encourage us and comfort us. And Jesus says Peace be with you. Jesus who understands our frustrations, who has felt what is like to be afraid, to be isolated to be alone, to be unwell.

Jesus breathes on the disciples, giving them the Holy Spirit. Breathing on someone is certainly not something to do in the present circumstances, but the breath of the Holy Spirit is far more infectious than the virus and has spread through the world in the last 2000 years. Sometimes people seem to have developed immunity to what the Holy Spirit is doing, but the power of God is not restricted by that and continues to spread the life-giving love of God through communities and nations.

But Thomas wasn’t there when Jesus appeared to the disciples on this occasion and he was reluctant to believe- everything had gone so badly wrong, how dare they joke about this, he just couldn’t face another discouragement. But Jesus comes and talks specifically to Thomas and invites him to touch Jesus- that’s another thing many of us are missing in the current situation Whatsapp doesn’t do hugs well, but we can still receive the touch of Jesus- ask Him.

Self-isolation and social distancing cannot keep us away from the love of God and because Jesus has risen from the dead we can say as Thomas did “My Lord and my God.”

Receive Jesus words: Peace be with you

Receive the Holy Spirit

My Lord and my God

Prayers The Lord’s Prayer and prayers for each other, the community and the world

May God, whose peace is active and living,

give us grace to receive peace

and to pass it on to all whom we are in touch with.

And let’s receive Gods blessing in the name of the Father Son and Holy Spirit