



Abington Pastoral Letter #3

19.03.2020

Dear friends

Please forgive Abington Pastoral Letter No.3 appearing so soon when so many things are already happening so quickly in such a short period of time. I do not want to inundate your life with another extra information or news. My next pastoral letter will come next week. But today I would like to introduce you to our Abington Worship at Home. While public worship in the church is suspended, you can still worship and praise God wherever you are with this. It is attached to this email.

If you receive this letter as a hard copy, then you should receive the hard copies of Worship at Home as well. My big thank you to all those who are delivering this letter to their neighbours and friends. Please do let me know if there is anyone who wishes to receive this letter.

There are three versions of Worship at Home: Worship at Home (Solo), Worship at Home (Together), Worship at Home (With Children). You can use any version you like. You can tweak it or change it if you wish. If you have other good resources, please do use them too and share them with others. Please do feel free to contact me at rector@abingtonchurch.org.uk if you have any questions but they should be all easy to follow and self-explanatory.

If you are in isolation or alone, then please do get in touch with our Pastoral Visiting Team at lizmk@outlook.com or on 01604 636947. A Pastoral Visitor will be happy to give you a call and pray together with you over the phone.

If you wish to pray privately, then the church is open on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays from 9 am to 4 pm. Prayers will be said by a Minister of Abington Parish Church on Wednesdays 9 am, Fridays 9 am, 3.15 pm and Sundays at 10 am. You may walk in and light the candle while just listening but please keep a safe distance and take sensible hygiene precautions if you do so.

This Sunday will be the first Sunday in a long time that Christians of this country don't gather

in the church building. It is really sad and dreadful. However this is not the first time Christians faced such challenge. In fact, the early Christians often couldn't gather in the same place because of the persecutions by the Romans. Even now, in some countries, Christians are worshipping in their own homes, in hard labour camps, in solitary confinements, sometimes together, sometimes totally alone. Christians in Iran, in North Korea, in Syria and in many other countries. They are testifying through their faith that even if we are in the complete isolation, God is with us. And when we are with God, we are with all God's people who give the same praise and worship to him as we do.

Let me conclude this letter with a passage from the Bible that came to me today.

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "I pray for these followers, but I am also praying for all those who will believe in me because of their teaching. Father, I pray that they can be one. As you are in me and I am in you, I pray that they can also be one in us. Then the world will believe that you sent me. I have given these people the glory that you gave me so that they can be one, just as you and I are one. I will be in them and you will be in me so that they will be completely one. Then the world will know that you sent me and that you loved them just as much as you loved me. Father, I want these people that you gave me to be with me where I am. I want them to see my glory, which you gave me because you loved me before the world was made. Father, you are the One who is good. The world does not know you, but I know you, and these people know you sent me. I showed them what you are like, and I will show them again. Then they will have the same love that you have for me, and I will live in them."

(John 17.20-26)

When we pray, we are with Christ. When we are with Christ, we are with all our brothers and sisters in Christ wherever they are in life or in death.

May God bless you and guide you with his light wherever you are.

With my prayers and blessings in Christ

Revd. Jun

Parish Priest