



St Matthew's Church

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The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 17th May 2020

Welcome to St Matthew's, which is part of the Wimbledon Team Ministry in the Diocese of Southwark, Church of England. Our service today is:

ONLINE!

If you are accessing this newsletter, you already know that, and have service details, but here are the wordy bits to go with it all.

The 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. Amen.

First Reading

Acts 17.22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the

world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.” Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

Second Reading

1 Peter 3.13-end

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Gospel Acclamation

Jesus said, 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word:
and my Father will love him and we shall come to him.'

The Gospel

John 14.15-21

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.'

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen

Notices

The Diocese of Southwark has announced:

We are delighted to be able to announce that the Bishop of Southwark has, in consultation with the Revd Lorenzo Fernandez-Smal, appointed the Revd Yunghee Koh to the post of Associate Priest of St Luke's Church Battersea in the Deanery of Battersea. Yunghee is presently serving her curacy in the Wimbledon Team. It is anticipated that Yunghee's last Sunday at Wimbledon will be 24th May and that she will be licensed, to the post at St Luke's on 7th June. The licensing will take place remotely, online, and be conducted by Bishop Richard.

Team Farewell

Congratulations to Yunghee on her new appointment, although we will be very sorry to lose her in the team. Yunghee will be leading the Team Ascension Day service on **Thursday (21st May)** at 8.15pm which will be streamed on Zoom. Please join us for the service and have a drink handy to toast her after the service from the comfort of your homes. There will then be a chance to meet together in small groups, or to meet up with Yunghee in the main meeting room.

Accessing the Zoom Service.

Details of how to access the service, including the password for entry, have been sent to members of the congregation. If you haven't received this, please contact Mthr Helen.

Next Sunday

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Readings: Acts 1.6-14; 1 Peter 4.12-14; John 17.1-11