SUNDAY 17th MAY 2020 10am

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Lord Jesus Christ, Wisdom and Word of God, dwell in our hearts, we pray, by your most Holy Spirit, that out of the abundance of our hearts our mouths may speak your praise. Amen. (*Christina Rossetti: 1830-1894*)

CONFESSION

O Lord, open our minds to see ourselves as you see us, and from all unwillingness to know our weakness and our sin, good Lord, deliver us. (*Peter Nott*)

May the God of love and power, forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

READINGS: Psalm 66; 7-end. Acts 17; 22-31. John 14; 15-21.

MINI REFLECTION

What a wonderful promise Jesus gives his disciples, and us. The disciples fear that Jesus will leave them alone, but are given the assurance that he will ensure the everlasting presence of the Holy Spirit. As Psalm 66 puts it, 'He has not removed his steadfast love from me.' We have that assurance of the Holy Spirit with us always, and in that strength alone we can, as Jesus tells us, keep his commandments. The gospel reading is filled with love. Paul, in Athens, is ready to demonstrate that same love as he grasps the opportunity to proclaim the true nature of the 'unknown god.' Indeed, as Paul says, 'He is not far from each of us.'

PRAYERS

THE COLLECT

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding. Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

We pray for all who meet together today to worship you, giving thanks for all the ways to do so which have emerged during the present circumstances. We praise you for the ever present power of your Spirit, moving among us now.

We pray for all who are suffering in any way at this time – for those with Covid 19, and for others living in fear of different illnesses. We pray for health care workers in the NHS and in care homes, and for all who cook and clean, who empty bins and make deliveries, so that the hospitals and homes can fully serve their patients.

Dear Lord, we give thanks for all those who give sacrificially, and often forego much, for the benefit of others. We make this prayer in the knowledge that you, O Lord, came to serve, giving yourself for our sakes. Amen (*John Elliot*)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (your favoured version)
WE SHARE THE GRACE

FINAL PRAYER

O Holy Spirit, breath of all creatures, purifier of all souls and healer of all wounds; be fire to our heart, light to our path and friend for our journey. Amen (*Hildegard of Bingen*)