THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life;
Such a Way, as gives us breath;
Such a Truth, as ends all strife;
And such a Life, as killeth death.

(from The Call, George Herbert).

CONFESSION.

Forgive us, O Christ, for all our wanderings. Forgive us for not listening to your voice calling us into right ways. Forgive us for our complaining and our worrying that have made us lose our trust in you. Forgive us for anger, for selfishness and greed. For all these we are sorry and pray that they may be taken from us. *(A.Murray Smith)*

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity. I said "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord" and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

(Psalm 32 v5)

READINGS.

Psalm 31; 1-5. Acts 7:55-end. John 14;21-26.

MINI REFLECTION

It is a difficult, somewhat strange, evening for Jesus' friends. There are to be dark days ahead and Jesus tries to prepare them. They are in that upper room. Judas, the betrayer, has left. Peter has been told he will deny knowing Jesus. Jesus calls upon them to trust in God the Father and in him. He talks of going to prepare a place for them, saying that they know where he's going and the way there. Thomas speaks for many, then and now, 'How can we know?' In all that confusion, with all the lack of understanding, Jesus says that *he* is the way. He's going on ahead to guide and lead his friends, us, into the fullness of God's kingdom.. However chaotic and fearful things are in the world, Jesus offers to show his friends, to show us, his way of living. More than that, he asks us to trust and have faith in him, knowing that we will be where he is with God the Father. In these difficult days we need reassurance; we need comfort. Jesus meets us where we are and offers to be our guide. He stands alongside us to strengthen us, calm us and teach us how to live in God's love as part of God's kingdom. What an offer! All we have to do is say yes.

PRAYERS.

This is a hard time for many of us.
Please know you aren't alone and that you have a God who cares for you more than words can say.
For those who are mourning, may you know the closeness of our resurrected Lord.
For those who are in pain, may you be held in his scarred hands.
For those who are lonely, may you meet him unexpectedly despite locked doors.
For those who are tired, may you sit at his fire and watch the flames with him while the morning sun lights the world.

(From Messy Church Newsletter).

We give thanks for the fellowship of our church community, and that you prepare a place for us in your heavenly kingdom. Guide us on our life's journey, and support us when we stumble. Be with those who are sick and those who worry about the future, those facing financial hardship and those concerned about loved ones. Make us ever ready to support others in difficult times.

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

FINAL PRAYER.
Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life, grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life, who is alive and reigns, now and forever. *(Common Worship).*