26th. April 2020 10am.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

God of the inner light, come to us on the golden rays of the morning, warming moods that are frosty, enlightening minds that are gloomy: and, as the sun swings higher, so may our lives rise to you in the active praise of this day's duties; through Jesus, our risen light.

(*Bruce Prewer*)

CONFESSION

Forgive us, Lord, when we falter in our faith, when the cares and stresses of this world distract us, when we try to shut you out of our lives. Forgive us when we put ourselves first, at the expense of others.

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen. (Book of Common Prayer).

COLLECT

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord; give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
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 forever, Amen

PSALM 116

READINGS Acts 2:14a,36-41.
1 Peter 1; 17-23, Luke 24: 13-35.

MINI-REFLECTION.

The passage from 1 Peter explains those who put their trust in God are in "exile" in this world. What the secular world considers important is futile; worldly things, such as gold or silver, are perishable. Obedience to God leads us to holy love, not just a natural human impulse but an active, self-sacrificing love which is all-inclusive. In the current lockdown there have been many examples of this generous, giving love.

The New Testament gives us a detailed picture of Peter. Although he didn't always understand what Jesus was saying, and let him down at his trial, God had faith in him and this fisherman became a founding father of the early church. Whatever part we have to play on this earth, God puts his faith in each one of us, even when we get things wrong.

PRAYERS

We give thanks for the beauty of the natural world, for birdsong, for the extravagance of your creation. We give thanks for our families and friends, for those who show self-giving love to us. We give thanks for NHS workers, and all who provide frontline services, often at personal risk. Above all, we give thanks for your Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his own life for us and has risen from the dead.

We bring before you the sick, the wounded, the fearful, those who mourn loved ones. Comfort and heal them in their sufferings.

We pray for your church here on earth; help us to reflect your transforming love to others. Support us as we find new ways to worship you outside our church buildings.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (your chosen version).

Let us share the **GRACE**.

FINAL PRAYER. We read in the Psalm the assertion of your saint of old who said, "I have trusted in the Lord without wavering". We thank you for his certain faith whereby nothing could move him from his implicit trust. We pray for that kind of faith to be in us. Make us as unwavering in our trust as you are in your care for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

(from a prayer by William H Kadel).