29th MARCH 2020 10am

PASSIONTIDE BEGINS

We offer you our hands, O Lord, to do your work; our lips to sing your praise; a life to proclaim your glory and a heart to serve our neighbour; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Hildegard of Bingen)

CONFESSION

We need your healing, merciful God, give us true repentance. Some sins are plain to us; some escape us, some we cannot face. Forgive us; set us free to hear your word to us; set us free to serve you.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PSALM 130

READINGS

Romans 8: 6-11, John 11: 1-45

MINI-REFLECTION

All of the readings tell us something about the depths to which the human spirit can sink and the hope that is ever present in our Heavenly Father. Jesus, in his earthly life, confronts joys and sadness, as we do. His power is evident in the passage from John's gospel where he demonstrates both his humanity and his divinity, recognised by Martha. The miracle of the raising of Lazarus occurs when Jesus is set on the road to the Cross. We, in turn, are lifted 'out of the depths' by Jesus' love and power.

PRAYERS

The doors of our churches may be closed but 'we thank you, Lord, for the open door of prayer which no-one can ever shut.' (William Barclay)

We continue to pray for our church family. We thank you for the ways in which we can communicate with each other even though we can't meet in person. We ask your blessing on our homes, our families and our friends.

We pray for those who are sick in body, mind or spirit; for those infected with Covid19 as well as those suffering from other causes. We pray especially for those treating the sick; for the NHS staff caring for their patients, knowing of the dangers they themselves face.

We pray for homeless and lonely people, giving thanks for all those who continue to show them compassion and kindness.

We pray for those who have died, and for those who mourn.

We give thanks for days of beautiful weather in the past week, for blue skies, and the quietness which has helped us to hear the birds singing.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (your chosen version)

Let us share the **GRACE ……**

FINAL PRAYER

May God give us light to guide us, courage to support us, and love to unite us, now and evermore. Amen