

**Rockland Benefice Morning Prayer**  
**Sunday, 17 May 2020**  
**The Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Preparation**

O Lord, open our lips

**All and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

In your resurrection, O Christ,

**All let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia!**

**The Easter Anthems**

1 Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us: ♦  
so let us celebrate the feast,

2 not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness: ♦  
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.  
*1 Corinthians 5.7b, 8*

3 Christ once raised from the dead dies no more: ♦  
death has no more dominion over him.

4 In dying he died to sin once for all: ♦  
in living he lives to God.

5 See yourselves therefore as dead to sin: ♦  
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Romans 6.9-11*

6 Christ has been raised from the dead: ♦  
the first fruits of those who sleep.

7 For as by man came death: ♦  
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;

8 for as in Adam all die: ♦  
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.  
*1 Corinthians 15.20-22*

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

**Silence is kept.**

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

**The Word of God**

**Acts 17:22-31**

<sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> 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, <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> 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, <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> 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.”

<sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> 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.’

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **Prayers *The Collect of the day is said***

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.

**All Amen.**

### **Love never fails (Christian Aid Week reflection and prayers)**

Even in the darkest moments, love gives hope.

Love compels us to fight against coronavirus alongside our sisters and brothers living in poverty.

Love compels us to stand together in prayer with our neighbours near and far.

Love compels us to give and act as one.

Now, it is clear that our futures are bound together more tightly than ever before.

As we pray in our individual homes – around the nation and around the world – we are united as one family.

For the health workers tending the seriously ill  
for the scientists working on a vaccination  
for the researchers analysing data  
for the media outlets working to communicate reality  
for the supermarket workers, hygiene and sanitation providers  
for the good news stories of recoveries  
for the singing from balconies by locked-down communities  
for the recognition that isolation doesn’t need to mean loneliness  
for the notes through letterboxes  
for the internet and telephones and technology that connects  
for the awakened appreciation of what is truly important

**All Thanks be to God.**

For those who are unwell and concerned for loved ones

for those who were already very anxious  
for those immune suppressed or compromised  
for those vulnerable because of underlying conditions  
for those in the 'most at risk to coronavirus' categories  
for those watching their entire income stream dry up  
for those who have no choice but to go out to work  
for those who are afraid to be at home  
for those who are more lonely than they've ever been  
for those who are bereaved and grieving.  
God be their healer, comfort and protection,  
be their strength, shield and provision  
be their security, safety and close companion  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**All hear our prayer.**

#### **A prayer for the church**

May your love that never fails  
strengthen the weak  
encourage the fearful  
calm the anxious  
heal the sick  
through your church –  
your washed hands  
and feet on earth –  
distant but still present  
virtual but still connected  
apart but still helping.  
God in your mercy,  
**All hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### **The Blessing**

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself,  
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service,  
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be open you and those you love,  
this day and for ever more.  
**All Amen.**

#### **Hymn**

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard My people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin,  
My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear My light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have born my peoples pain.  
I have wept for love of them, They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak My word to them,  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them,  
My hand will save  
Finest bread I will provide,  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give My life to them,  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

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**Rockland Benefice 2020**

Words from Common Worship

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Dawn Music CCLI applied for.