

We give thanks for those scientists who have been able to develop vaccines against Covid-19 and pray that their work may continue to be successful.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the wider issues in our world. We think of those whose lives are scarred by war and violence, and we ask that the leaders of nations may work to bring about a new world order of peace and harmony.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for your church. As we continue to face difficult times help us to be more aware of your presence, and trust you for guidance.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

And we pray for ourselves. Guide and direct us, lead us through our lives, that we may know your saving grace and power.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer. Amen**

We sum up all our prayers in the words Our Lord taught us.

Our Father.....

You may wish to set aside your offering for the work of God.

Hymn StF 319 **Christ triumphant, ever reigning**

Blessing

May the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, keep our hearts and minds in his love, now and forever. Amen

Our worship sheet was prepared by Local Preacher, John Kidd.

Worship at Home May 16th 2021



Call to Worship

**Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary,
praise him in his mighty heavens.
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.**

Hymn StF 88 **Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

Opening Prayer

We worship and adore you, the living Christ, fully human, fully God, the fulness of all that is created.

We worship and adore you, the living Christ, that in the high place of the Spirit's sphere you have made manifest the Spirit's truth that all things are created to acknowledge God.

We worship and adore you, the living Christ, that you have known the fulness of the power of evil and have given us the grace that we may be sustained in temptation's darkest hour.

Worshipping and adoring, we come before you with praise and thanksgiving in our hearts and minds. **Amen**

Reading [1 John 5:9-13](#)

Reflection

The first letter of John was written as a rebuttal of some of the heresies which had arisen in the early church. Gnosticism and Docetism said in effect that Jesus wasn't human but only **seemed** to be human. Flesh, they believed, was evil, and therefore Jesus could not have been truly flesh – i.e. human. The whole of this letter was written as a rebuttal of these heresies. The writer of the letter of John makes it clear what he believes, that Jesus was both human and divine. He uses the word “testimony” to argue his case. “Testimony” is a word and theme found in both John's letters and the Gospel which bear the same name. The word relates to someone bearing witness to something that has happened to them, or something which they have observed. And the testimony to who Jesus was comes from two sources, from people and from God. Human testimony says that Jesus died and rose again. Men and women had seen him after his resurrection, which was important, but a far more significant testimony is that of God. That testimony is far more significant simply because it is from God, and must therefore be true. In some of the verses preceding our reading he makes it clear that Jesus died and therefore was human, but that he had also received the Spirit of God and was therefore divine. He uses the words water and blood to represent Jesus' humanity, and Spirit to represent divinity to reinforce the concept that Jesus was both human and divine.

The writer doesn't stop there. He says that whoever does not believe is a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given. Now this is pretty strong stuff, but the writer goes on even further, adding a positive to his negative. Whoever has the Son of God has eternal life, and whoever does not have the Son of God doesn't have eternal life. And the last verse gives the

reason for sending this letter. You who believe in the name of the Son of God have eternal life.

The letter gets the message across quite clearly – Jesus was both human and divine. Running through the letter is the idea that in his divinity and humanity Jesus demonstrated the most important aspect of God, that God is love. And his followers must love one another. And in loving one another, having the power of the Spirit within them, they shall have eternal life.

It's still the same. Love one another, trust in Him, both human and divine, and we have the promise of eternal life with and in Him.

Hymn StF 338 **There is a Redeemer**

Prayers of Intercession

Lord God, we bring to you our needy world. Guide and direct people into being and doing the best they can be. We pray that the joy of Easter may resound through your world.

We pray for those suffering from illness and disease. We pray especially for those with Covid-19, and for India in particular

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those working to relieve suffering. We pray especially for the medical staff working so desperately to relieve suffering and distress.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our country. As we still experience the pressures of pandemic, we pray that government, scientists and local authorities may be able to work together for the good of all.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**