**St Nicholas Stevenage + St Mary’s Graveley**

**Sunday Gathering: 22nd March 2020**

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**Welcome and Opening Prayer**

**Hymn:** **How Great Thou Art**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hi7OrgwdOfU>

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder

Consider all the works Thy Hand hath made,

I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,

Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed; *Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,*

*How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,*

*How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

And when I think that God his Son not sparing,

Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in!

That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,

He bled and died, to take away my sin….

When Christ shall come, with shouts of acclamation,

And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!

Then I shall bow in humble adoration

And there proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!" *….*

**Prayer of Preparation**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,

and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect for today: 4th Sunday of Lent

Merciful Lord,

Absolve your people from their offences,

That through your bountiful goodness

We may be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed;

Grant this, Heavenly Father, for Jesus’ Christ’s sake, our blessed saviour

Who is alive and reigns with you,

In the unity of the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and for ever.

Amen

**Bible Reading: Isaiah 59v1-22**

**Hymn: Jesus Strong and Kind**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5Y8s-Sz_ac>

Jesus said that if I thirst
I should come to him
No one else can satisfy
I should come to him

Jesus said if I am weak
I should come to him
No one else can be my strength
I should come to him

*For the Lord is good and faithful
He will keep us day and night
We can always run to Jesus
Jesus, strong and kind*

Jesus said that if I fear
I should come to him
No one else can be my shield
I should come to him

*For the Lord is good and faithful
He will keep us day and night
We can always run to Jesus
Jesus, strong and kind*

Jesus said if I am lost
He will come to me
And he showed me on that cross
He will come to me

*For the Lord is good and faithful
He will keep us day and night
We can always run to Jesus
Jesus, strong and kind*

**Talk: Why Doesn’t God Do Something?**

* The Situation
* The Problem
* The Result
* A Personal Diagnosis
* The Solution
* A New Life Begins

**Confession**

**Almighty and most merciful Father,**

**we have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.**

**We have offended against your holy laws.**

**We have left undone**

**those things that we ought to have done;**

**and we have done those things**

**that we ought not to have done;**

**and there is no health in us.**

**But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners.**

**Spare those who confess their faults.**

**Restore those who are penitent,**

**according to your promises**

**declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,**

**that we may live a disciplined,**

**righteous and godly life,**

**to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

*We are reminded of God’s promise to forgive all who repent.*

May Almighty God, who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour, forgive us our sins, and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Prayers – ending with The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father in heaven

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours

now and forever.

Amen.

**Hymn: Amazing Grace**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mziKZLqnaws>

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I’m found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

**BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

May our Lord Jesus Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;

 and the blessing…

***Final Response***

Go in peace to love, serve

and enjoy the Lord.
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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