




## Live your faith 10-16 May 2020

Read, pray, reflect at home this week



 This week's Bible readings Acts 7.55-60 • 1 Peter 2.2-10 • John 14.1-14

## I am the way

### Notes on the Bible readings

- This week's Gospel passage is perhaps best known for its use at funerals. But Jesus' words offer more than the promise of a place prepared for the future. He also promises that he will remain with the disciples, even when he is physically gone from them.
- In his unique writing style, John illustrates the complex relationship between God present now as trinity and the (not-yet) promise of the kingdom to come. The relationship is close - whoever has seen Jesus has seen the Father. This is why Jesus can assure the disciples that they will not be left abandoned, and that he himself is both the way that they need to travel and the means.
- There is a theme within these readings of being joined to God in an unbreakable relationship. 1 Peter speaks about believers being built together like living stones. Jesus assures his disciples that they will be united in and with him. The Gospel passage ends with a command and a promise (v.12): 'the one who believes in me will also to the works that I do'. Through a life lived in 'the way', we are commissioned to follow Jesus' example: feeding the poor, caring for those who are hurting, and sharing God's love.

### The way

Make a simple labyrinth, inside or outside, using rope, string or pebbles. (Search the internet for example to copy). Make it as large as space and resources allow. Walk the path you have laid out, imagining that Jesus is walking with you. Ask (pray) that Jesus will show you the way in your daily life. Take as much time as you need, pausing from time to time to think about whatever comes to mind.

FREE [worship at home](http://www.rootsontheweb.com) resources, including up-to-the-minute reflection on this week's Bible reading, available at: [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com)

### Questions for reflection

- ▶ What do you use to help you find the way?
- ▶ How does it feel that Jesus has prepared a way and a place for each of us?
- ▶ When are the most difficult times to recognise Jesus as the way?



### A prayer of approach

*Together, Lord, we come to seek the 'Jesus way'.  
May we know your truth and your presence in all that we are.  
May we receive new life, and be empowered to serve you in all that we do. Amen.*

### A prayer for others

*In the world at this time there is so much fear,  
many have had their lives and livelihoods destroyed;  
many grieve for loved ones who have died;  
many are still sick - or fear becoming so:  
that they may all know your strength and peace, loving God -  
be for them a rock and a stronghold.*

*In a world where industries and infrastructures have failed,  
where means of transport and delivery struggle to survive,  
where many do not have adequate food, water or power:  
that they may know your strength and peace, loving God -  
be for them a rock and a stronghold.*

*In a world where many people are or feel alone;  
where many do not know where to look for comfort;  
where many see no purpose or future:  
that they may know your strength and peace, loving God -  
be for them a rock and a stronghold.*

*In the name of the living Lord Jesus. Amen.*

### A personal prayer

*Show me your way; help me to know your truth,  
and to live your life. Amen.*

### Live your faith

Remember that, for you, Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. Try to think of a practical consequence of that in or for whatever you are about to do, wherever that may be.



Dear Friends,

I don't know where we would be without computers in our current circumstances. I think it is fair to



say that, like the picture, I do give my machine a bit of a hammering: emails, Power Points for worship and the associated music, pew sheets and other publications, letters, finance and accounting, diary, making phone calls (yes I do that through the computer too). All my working life seems to revolve around this box of tricks, and my goodness, I don't quite know where I might start to pick up the pieces if I suddenly didn't have it. Now with the added burden of filming, video editing and uploading to the internet, my old faithful finally

began to fall over this last week. So, I write to you today on a shiny new computer that, I hope, will give me a number of years of service (at least until I've saved up again for a new one).

It made me stop and think about how much trust I put in this machine to always be there for me, it has almost achieved a god-like status, and yet, unlike God, it is as fallible as any of us and just as vulnerable to viruses, even though we inoculate them with anti-virus software! They are also open to human manipulation, despite our best efforts to stop it, as I experienced in recent events.

If the power went off and we couldn't use our machines, would it be the end of the world? Of course not, we would still find a way to carry on, because humankind is much more adaptable to changing circumstances than any machine can ever be. We are made, after all, in God's image and that is where we need to put our trust, not in some hard drive that might crash at any moment, but in our creating, sustaining and loving God who never needs a backup and in who's loving embrace we can rest our sometimes troubled souls. What computer can offer that?

Having said that, machines like this are useful to us, and in that sense, the technology could be regarded as God-given, especially in these days. But there are those of us who don't have the technology, and it has worried me over these last weeks that we haven't been able to provide the worship that some of us have enjoyed to everyone. In a sudden "Eureka!" moment this week, I realised that many who do not have computers probably have got DVD players, and so, I got to grips with the technology once again, and managed to produce a DVD containing some of the worship we have put on line. During this next week we hope to be able to deliver a DVD to those who don't have internet access. If you know anyone who would like to receive one do give me a call and let me know.

I continue to hold you all in my prayers and pray for the day when we can come together again in worship and fellowship and friendship. God Bless, Rob.

Daily Readings for week commencing 11 <sup>th</sup> May		
<b>Monday</b>	Numbers 9:15-end; 10:33-end	Luke 4:38-end
<b>Tuesday</b>	Numbers 11: 1-33	Luke 5: 1-11
<b>Wednesday</b>	Number 12	Luke 5: 12-26
<b>Thursday</b>	1 Samuel 2: 27-35	Acts 2: 37-end <i>St Matthias</i>
<b>Friday</b>	Numbers 14: 1-25	Luke 6: 1-11
<b>Saturday</b>	Numbers 14: 26-end	Luke 6: 12-26

**Pray for those in need...** Sally Bozward, Katie-Louise Sweetlove, Pam Pincott, Sue Gilchrist, Bryn Roberts, Evelyn Clarke, Shane Williams, Pat Williams, Heather Elsdon, Dorothy Goodwin.  
**The departed...** Brian Tansell, Pauline Battersea, Ibbly Watson, Ron Beatson, Joyce Holton, Terry Jauncey and Ann Jones