

## **Worship@Home May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2026 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter: With Revd Dr Samantha Gillard**

### **Call to Worship**

Let us sing. **Praise be to God!**

Who dared to take on human flesh and dwell among us.

**Praise be to God!**

Who did not turn back in the face of evil and death.

**Praise be to God!**

Who continues to dance through our lives even now. Let all that have breath sing praise to God.

Call to worship written by Katherine Hawker, on **Liturgy Outside**. <http://liturgyoutside.net/>: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/04/contemporary-call-to-worship.html>

### ***STF 303 I know that my Redeemer lives***

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40LGaRVUNkc&list=RD40LGaRVUNkc&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40LGaRVUNkc&list=RD40LGaRVUNkc&start_radio=1)

I know that my Redeemer lives;

what joy the blest assurance gives!

He lives, He lives, who once was dead;

He lives, my everlasting Head.

He lives to bless me with His love,

He lives to plead for me above,

He lives my hungry soul to feed,

He lives to help in time of need.

He lives and grants me daily breath;

He lives and I shall conquer death;

He lives my mansion to prepare;

He lives to bring me safely there.!

He lives, all glory to His name;

He lives, my Saviour, still the same;

What joy the blest assurance gives,

"I know that my Redeemer lives!"

Music ©2003 Thankyou Music. Administered by Kingswaysongs, a division of David C Cook  
<tym@kingsway.co.uk> Used by permission.

CCL:I Song Number: 4662491

### **Bible reading:**

**1 Peter 2: 2-10** <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=260927103>

**John 14: 1-14** <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=260927158>

## Time to Reflect

I recently watched *The Other Bennet* series on TV, adapted from the book 'The Other Bennet Sister' by Janice Hadlow, and I was shocked to realise that I had never really thought about the character of Mary Bennet—what she went through, or what became of her—even though I have read *Pride and Prejudice* and watched many adaptations. My overlooking of Mary mirrors a theme that runs throughout the story itself: Mary feels overlooked, unseen, and unheard. She is present, earnest, and faithful, yet rarely noticed or valued.

I was reflecting on this when I read this week's lectionary readings from John's Gospel, chapter 14, and from 1 Peter, chapter 2. Suddenly I was struck by Philip's words: "*Master, show us the Father, and then we will be content.*" And I realised how little I truly know about Philip—one of the twelve disciples—despite having encountered him again and again in Scripture. Like Mary Bennet, Philip is often present at key moments yet easily fades into the background of the story.

So, who is Philip, and what do we know of him? Philip is among the first disciples called by Jesus, and significantly, he is called directly by Jesus rather than through another disciple. Immediately, Philip becomes an inviter: he goes to Nathanael and says simply, "Come and see." Philip appears several times in John's Gospel as a practical and thoughtful figure. At the feeding of the five thousand, it is Philip who voices the impossibility of the situation by calculating the cost of bread. He is logical, attentive to reality, and honest about limits. Later, when a group of Greeks want to see Jesus, it is Philip—along with Andrew—who acts as a go-between. Philip often stands at thresholds, helping others to move closer to Christ, even when he himself is still working things out.

That makes Philip's question in John 14 deeply characteristic. "Show us the Father," he asks—not as a challenge, but as a heartfelt request. Philip longs for assurance, visibility, and certainty. He wants to see the God he has committed his life to following. And Jesus' response is profound: "*Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.*"

This moment becomes one of the clearest statements of the incarnation in the Gospel. God is not hidden, distant, or abstract. God has chosen to be known in Jesus—in flesh and blood, in relationship, in ordinary human life.

This revelation connects powerfully with the image in 1 Peter chapter 2, where Christ is described as the living stone—rejected by others, yet chosen and precious to God. Jesus himself becomes the overlooked one, the dismissed one, the stone the builders could not see as valuable. And yet, God builds everything upon him. Philip’s quiet, questioning faith opens space for this truth to be spoken aloud. What appears uncertain or ordinary becomes foundational.

So, what might we take home from Philip today? Especially in this Easter season, Philip shows us that resurrection faith does not eliminate uncertainty. It invites us to keep walking with the risen Christ, trusting that understanding comes gradually. Easter people are not those with all the answers, but those who remain, listen, and continue to follow.

Philip reminds us that faithful discipleship includes the courage to ask honest questions. Wanting to see, to understand, to be assured does not disqualify us from faith. Instead, it can deepen it. When we bring our uncertainty to Jesus, we may discover that God has already drawn closer than we imagined.

Within these scriptures is also a call to action. Peter tells us that we, too, are living stones, being built into a spiritual house. That means paying attention to those who feel overlooked within our churches, our communities, and even within ourselves. God’s kingdom is often built through the quiet, faithful presence of people the world passes by. Our calling is to recognise that work, to honour it, and to participate in it—trusting that in Christ, no life is unseen, and no question offered in faith is ever wasted. So, who in your community needs to be seen and recognised? Amen

### **Prayer of Intercession**

You are invited to pray silently for:

The needs of the world...

The Church and its calling...

Loved ones going through difficult times...

For peace, justice, and reconciliation...

In Jesus name. **Amen.**

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven...

## ***STF 470 Lord for the years your love has kept and guided***

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkTrFQLy6js&list=RDMkTrFQLy6js&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkTrFQLy6js&list=RDMkTrFQLy6js&start_radio=1)

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way, sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided, Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the Word of life which fires us, speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze, teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us, Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land, in this our generation, spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care; for young and old, for commonwealth and nation, Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him, loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain; hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him, Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us, self on the cross and Christ upon the throne; past put behind us, for the future take us, Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Noel Richards. © 1986 Thankyou Music. Admin: Integrity Music. CCLI Song Number: 121074

## **Blessing** (based on John 14:1-4)

Don't let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God, and in God's son, Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life, and through whom we come to know the Father.

And may the blessing of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit go with you as you leave this place. Amen.

Benediction for Easter 5 Cited <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/05/benediction-for-easter-5.html>