

Friends,

Thank you to Peter Wilkinson who sent me a poem
that he wrote last week, 'The Cloud'.

Holy Trinity
St Mary's

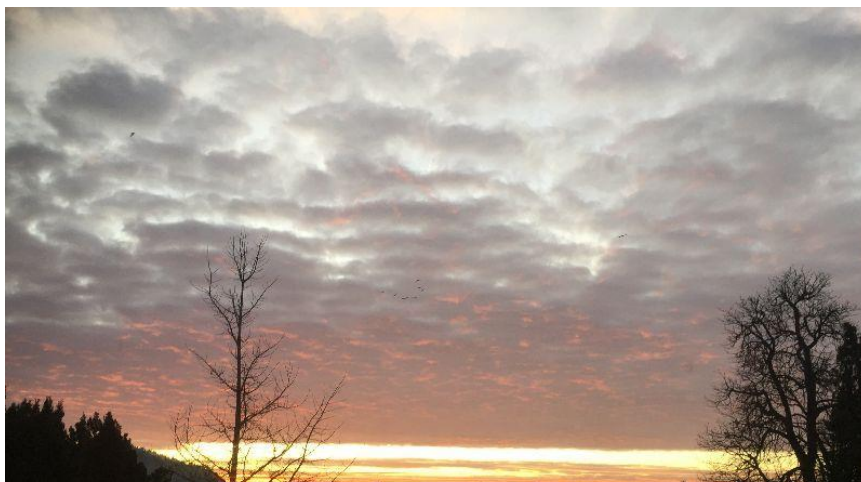
The Cloud

Sometimes I thank God for clouds.
When grey cloud fills the sky, then all that yearning
And intensity of sunlight's dawning
Is exchanged for God's presence made more bearable,
Accommodation to the weakness of the flesh
However much the spirit may be willing.

Sometimes my need is for normality,
The everyday, a heaven found in ordinary;
God immanent instead of God transcendent,
One who walks beside us on our way
As one might talk with and accompany a friend:
The still small voice, not earthquake, wind and fire.

In view of which, how strange to think
The one we needed most was welcomed least.

But not so strange. Clouds always were a sign
Of presence, not of God's obscurity.
The cloud took Israel through her desert wanderings.
Jesus also said he would be seen
Soon, coming with the clouds of heaven.
Today as I walk round the hill
Not having to protect my eyes
Against the dazzling light of dawn
I also feel God's presence with the clouds
As with the fire, but more companionably.



For your prayers

Ascension Day is on Thursday 21st May. It's an important day in the move from Easter to Pentecost, when we acknowledge the difficulty of separation. After the trauma of Good Friday, the disciples gradually recognised the presence of the Risen Jesus, through various resurrection appearances. But then Jesus had to show them that the Spirit could not come, until his appearances ceased. So, the Ascension is a closing of one chapter, in order that the next chapter can then begin. I am sure that the themes of loss, and being made ready for a new chapter, resonate with us all at the moment.

Please pray for school leaders as they make preparations for some resumption of "normal" school life, after half term at the start of June. Please pray this week for Clare Brunet, head of Holy Trinity Pewley Down, and Kate Collins, head of Sandfield Primary School.

In the neighbourhood

Do you know a young person who is struggling at home with their emotional wellbeing or managing their mental health at this difficult time? Matrix, a local Christian Youth Work Charity, can help. They are providing [FREE one-to-one Online Youth Support Sessions](#) for young people where they can chat with an experienced Youth Worker about their worries and anxieties, finding help and advice.

If you know a young person who would benefit from this, either in your own family or a friend or neighbour's then please let us hear from you. [Click here for more information](#).

Pause to pray and Sunday worship

- Midweek Pause to Pray continues with Alwyn Marriage reflecting on the Ascension, and how God continues to be present with us here and now.
- Also, this week, a special [Junior Church video](#) has been posted, led by Pippa and Tom. Very moving and beautiful! Adults will enjoy seeing a great example of how story telling works in Junior Church.
- Our Sunday Zoom services will continue at 10:00am and 11:00am, with chat rooms after each. Pippa is now running a "children's chat room" after the 10:00am service. Please be in touch with her if you would like to be sent contact details for this (as we will not publish these details online).
- The 10:30am congregation based at St Mary's continues to grow. These services are now being streamed to university students as well (since Keith Beckingham is the Free Church chaplain at University of Surrey).

Apologies if you had difficulty joining the services last Sunday. It was not your fault (nor our fault). Zoom was having trouble nationwide – perhaps too many people are now going to online churches! Apparently, the glitch has been fixed. If you are having difficulty with accessing a service, please [let us know](#).

Links to services and service sheets

Zoom links are sent out by email only. [SUBSCRIBE HERE](#) if you are not on our mailing list and would like to receive this newsletter and links to Zoom services by email.

Sunday 24th May 8am Holy Communion	<u>SERVICE SHEET</u>
Sunday 24th May 10am Eucharist & coffee	<u>SERVICE SHEET</u>
Sunday 24th May Church-at-Home & coffee	<u>SERVICE SHEET</u>
Sunday 24th May 11am Eucharist & coffee	<u>SERVICE SHEET</u>
<u>Midweek & Sunday Pause to Pray</u>	<u>ALL VIDEOS</u>
Weekday 8.30am Morning Prayer on Zoom	<u>WEEKDAY PRAYER</u>
Saturday 9.30am Morning Prayer on Zoom	<u>SATURDAY PRAYER</u>
Download Zoom links & call-in details	<u>HTSM NEWSLETTER</u>

Final call for Angel Voices

I do hope that you will have participated in the recording of “Angel voices ever singing”, a hymn that will be used in a service on Pentecost evening for the whole diocese – as well as on Trinity Sunday for this parish. The deadline for this has been very kindly extended by Nick to midday Friday 22nd May.

To take part:

- Listen to [this recording](#) using HEADPHONES.
- Read the music/words provided at the same link and sing the melody along to the recording.
- Record your voice by filming a facial shot singing all the verses in one take in LANDSCAPE format. A simple recording using your phone is best!
- Send it to Nick, ideally on [WhatsApp](#) at 07979 191 246. Or, you can upload it to [WeTransfer](#) where you will email to: nickgrahammusic@gmail.com with the Message: Angel Voices.
Deadline for videos is 12 noon Friday 22nd May.

With best wishes,

Robert

20th May 2020

P.S. If there is news that we should know please pass it on:

Rev Robert Cotton:

rector@holytrinityguildford.org.uk | 01483 575489 (Away Mon 25–Wed 27 May)

Rev Tom Pote:

curate@holytrinityguildford.org.uk | 01483 511725 (Away Weds 27–Fri 29 May)

Parish Office:

office@holytrinityguildford.org.uk | 01483 567716

Please make sure we have up to date contact details for you.
