

Greater Love

Red lips are not so red
As the stained stones kissed by the English dead.
Kindness of wooed and wooer
Seems shame to their love pure.
O Love, your eyes lose lure
When I behold eyes blinded in my stead!

Your slender attitude
Trembles not exquisite like limbs knife-skewed,
Rolling and rolling there
Where God seems not to care;
Till the fierce love they bear
Cramps them in death's extreme decrepitude.

Your voice sings not so soft,—
Though even as wind murmuring through rafters loft,—
Your dear voice is not dear,
Gentle, and evening clear,
As theirs whom none now hear,
Now earth has stopped their piteous mouths that coughed.

Heart, you were never hot
Nor large, nor full like hearts made great with shot;
And though your hand be pale,
Paler are all which trail
Your cross through flame and hail:
Weep, you may weep, for you may touch them not.

Wilfred Owen - 1893-1918



Opening prayer

Creator God,
you have called us to worship you,
chosen us to be your friends
and invited us to extend that friendship
to your people in all the world.
May we live as Jesus lived,
serve as he served, and love as he loved,
to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

Assurance of forgiveness

God of hope and healing:
for choosing us - **we thank you.**
For trusting us - **we thank you.**
For befriending us - **we thank you.**
For empowering us - **we thank you.**
For loving us - **we thank you.**
And for forgiving, redeeming and blessing us -
we thank you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of intercession

God of love, friend to those in power, with local elections in the UK this week we are reminded of the privilege we have in being able to engage in democracy and vote. Whatever our political leanings, we pray for those who have retained or gained places on our local councils. May they be diligent in working for the communities they serve, passionate about improving the lives of others, and open to listening to views different from their own. Equip *all* of our political representatives with the gifts of thoughtfulness, grace and integrity.
God of love (*or similar*) - **hear our prayer.**

A sending out prayer

Lord Jesus, we rejoice that you have chosen us to be your friends.
Help us to be a friend to you by obeying your commands.
As we go out into your world,
help us to live a life that reflects your love,
by being a friend to others. **Amen.**

During the present lockdown, there are no Sunday services and St George's Church is closed.

You are invited to join the Chaplain for worship on Zoom each **Sunday at 10.30am**: link attached to this email, or by request.

YpresPadre@outlook.com

Prayers of the Day

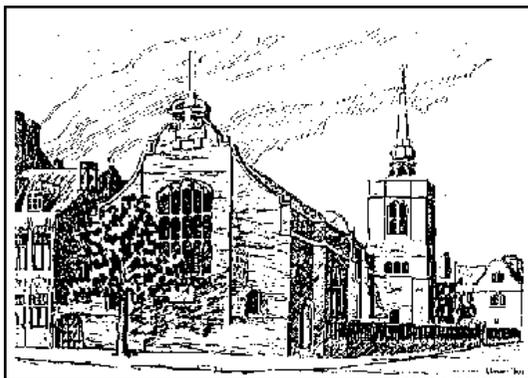
God our redeemer,
you have delivered us
from the power of darkness
and brought us
into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death
he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us
to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ
gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please feel free to pass
a copy of this onto others
or send by email.*

*Includes material from
© ROOTS for Churches Ltd
www.rootsontheweb.com*



St George's Memorial Church Ieper

May 9th 2021
Easter 6

1 John 5.1-6; John 15.9-17

Copy and paste readings into the online Oremus Bible here:

<https://bible.oremus.org/>

Loving friends and enemies

Jesus said: 'No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.' Yet Jesus' love included even his enemies. We join together as friends, Jesus' friends, yet remember that his love encompasses all and excludes no-one.



Can we understand what 'loving one another after the example of Jesus' means in practice. What does it mean to 'lay down our lives' (to 'die') for others? How does such love compare to the shallow, selfish and superficial 'love' of popular understanding, focussed rather on romance or desire? What are the implications of this for us as we follow Jesus, and find ourselves in relationship with others called and chosen by him, - the good, bad or indifferent - walking alongside us?

'Sharing God's Peace for all Nations through the Gospel.'