

Florence Nightingale

- Rev Kit Gunasekera taken from Rt Revd Sarah Mulally, Bishop of London

...This year ... marks the 200 th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. I do not know what image comes to your mind when you think of Florence Nightingale. I suspect it is the image of her holding a lamp but Florence was much more than that. Florence was shaped by two things: her faith and the Crimean War.

Born in Florence, she was baptized into the Church of England, and she made no secret of an explicit calling from God – a call to service. God, for Florence in the words of our Psalm, was her refuge and fortress to save. She believed that God wanted to change the world. The Church of England then, as it does now, has a liturgy for the deliverance from plague, pestilence and famine. Florence believed that we should not only pray for deliverance, but we should work to bring deliverance.

She wrote: It did strike me as odd, that sometimes we should pray to be delivered from 'plague, pestilence and famine' when all the sewers ran into the Thames. I thought that Cholera came that we might remove the causes and not pray that God would remove the Cholera.

She believed that a life of prayer was there to support our work in the world and Jesus suggests in our reading that once he had departed, those of us who follow him will do greater works than he had done. As Christians we carry on his work...

+Sarah

Link to the service is -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUAriWLhyKE&feature=emb_logo

Bible Reading:

Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you. – John 20:21

Song: O Jesus I have promised – you can listen to it here -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oti-K_VvyCI

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me,
my Master and my Friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end:
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.

O let me see thy footmarks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly is in thy strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me, uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my Friend.