

**An Act of Worship to Mark the 23 March**  
(The beginning of the first lockdown in 2020)

**Saint Mary Magdalen at 12.00 noon**  
(The Church in Billericay High Street)

*Introduction / A candle will be lit.*

*The leader says:*

Lord God, the maker and redeemer of all, as we come before you in thanksgiving for the gift of health and life, we grieve for the thousands who have died: comfort us with your presence, sustain us with the hope of your kingdom, and give us grace to live our lives well; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full. Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

**Psalm 23**

*You may wish to reflect on, and pray in the quietness of your own heart, about the following:*

Those who have died;  
Key workers at the forefront of the pandemic;  
For all who are in need;  
Those who care for others;  
For those nations still affected by COVID;  
Your hopes for the future.

*The leader prays:*

*We pray together:*

**God of love, as we think about all that has changed this year, help us to trust that you are always with us. As we remember those who have died, help us to trust they are at peace with you. As we reach out to others with kindness and care, may hope shine out in every heart and home. Amen.**

*The leader prays:*

Lord Jesus Christ, when fear and anxiety besiege us and hope is veiled in grief, hold us in your wounded hands and make your face shine on us again, for you are our Lord and God. **Amen.**

*We all join in praying the Lord's Prayer:*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

*The leader says:*

May Jesus the Good Shepherd enfold us with love, fill us with peace, and lead us in hope, to the end of our days; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

*A time of silence will be kept and the candle will be blown out to mark the end of Act of Worship.*

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*Part Of The Billericay & Little Burstead Team Ministry*