

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE DITTONS

ACT OF COMMON WORSHIP & WITNESS - GOOD FRIDAY, 2020

*We gather in silence wherever we are, as the Body of Christ, our Crucified Lord,
here in Hinchley Wood and the Dittons.*

Rob : In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
The Lord be with you. (voice 2) **And also with you.**

Leader 1 to offer WORDS OF WELCOME

Judith : ***When I survey the wondrous cross
Oh which the Prince of glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.***

Peter: Let us pray:
On this day when Jesus died,
on this day when his friends all scattered in fear,
on this day when we are held at home by love and care and
cannot meet,
in this time of anxious todays and uncertain tomorrows,
Gather us into your love, Lord God,
draw us together as one in faith and hope,
give us, all together, new life.
Through Christ, your Son, Our Lord. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Psalm 22 (Prayed by voices 2 & 3)

Voice 2: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
You are far from my plea and the cry of my distress.
O my God, I call by day and you give no reply;
I call by night and I find no peace.

Voice 3: ***Yet you, O God, are holy,
Enthroned on the praises of Israel.
In you our fathers put their trust;
They trusted and you set them free.
When they cried to you, they escaped.
In you they trusted and never in vain.***

But I am a worm and no man,
the butt of men, laughing-stock of the people.
All who see me deride me.

They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.

***Yes it was you who took me from the womb,
entrusted me to my mother's breast.
To you I was committed from my birth,
From my mother's womb you have been my God.
Do not leave me alone in my distress;
come close, there is none else to help.***

Many bulls have surrounded me,
Fierce bulls of Bashan close me in.
Against me they open wide their jaws,
like lions, rending and roaring.

***Like water I am poured out,
disjointed are all my bones.
My heart has become like wax,
It is melted within my breast.***

Parched as burnt clay is my throat,
My tongue cleaves to my jaws.

***Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet
And lay me in the dust of death.***

I can count every one of my bones.
These people stare at me and gloat;
they divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.

...

Judith: ***Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.***

...

Voice 3: ***O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me!
Rescue my soul from the sword,
my life from the grip of these dogs.
Save my life from the jaws of these lions,***

my poor soul from the horns of these oxen.

Voice 2: I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.

Voice 3 ***For he has never despised
nor scorned the poverty of the poor.
From him he has not hidden his face,
but he heard the poor man when he cried.'***

Voice 2 You are my praise in the great assembly.
My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.
May their hearts live for ever and ever!

Voice 3: ***All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him
For the kingdom is the Lord's; he is ruler of the nations.
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
before him shall bow down all who go down to the dust.***

Voice 2: And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,
Declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn;
'These things the Lord has done'

Voices 3: ***GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND TO THE SON
AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING
IS NOW AND EVER SHALL BE, WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN.***

Rob: A Reading From St. Paul's 1st Letter to the Corinthians (1.17-25)

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.

For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

...

Judith: *See from his head, his hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

...

Peter: *to offer a **SHORT REFLECTION** on the Word of God*

...

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE CROSS

Voice 2: We glory in your cross, O Lord,

Voice 3: *and praise you for your mighty resurrection;
for by virtue of your cross joy has come into our world.*

Voice 2 We despised him and rejected him;
he endured suffering and pain.

Voice 3 *He endured the suffering that should have been ours,
the pain that we should have borne.*

Voice 2 God be gracious to us and bless us:
and make his face shine upon us,

Voce 3 *Let your ways be made known on earth:
your liberating power among all nations.*

Voice2 Let the peoples praise you O God:
Let all the peoples praise you.

Voice 3 *We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and praise you for your mighty resurrection;
for by virtue of your cross joy has come into our world.*

Rob : *leads **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (extempore or written)*

*The response to each prayer is: (Judith) **Lord, hear our prayer.***

...

*All our prayers are gathered in **The Lord's Prayer: (Voice 2)***

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and 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.

Rob:

FINAL PRAYER

Lord God,
On this day when we honour the strange victory of your Son,
who was broken on the Cross to bring healing to the world
and who died to bring forth his risen life,
grant that we, who have watched with him at the foot of the
Cross
may always be faithful to that Cross,
through which you give your people strength in their weakness,
pardon in their frailty,
joy in their sorrow
and hope in the face of adversity.
This we ask through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Peter:

Let us pray together the grace:

***The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore. Amen.***

Solo Singer:

***Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small,
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.***