

St. Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood

Sunday 20th September 2020. 15th Sunday after Trinity Sunday

Welcome to our "Hybrid" Sunday Service. "Hybrid" means some people are joining us in the Church today, and some people are joining us via Zoom or YouTube from their homes.

As we come together in worship today, we are reminded that God deals with all of us with grace and with love and without favour.

Please join in with the words in **bold** print.

Gathering

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

All **and also with you.**

Hymn

There's a wideness in God's mercy
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in his justice
Which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's
sorrows
Are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's
failings
Have such kindly judgement given.

For the love of God is broader
Than the scope of human mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more simple,
We should take him at his word;
And our hearts would find
assurance
In the promise of the Lord.

But we make his love too narrow
By false limits of our own;
And we magnify his strictness
With a zeal he would not own.
There is plentiful redemption
In the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members
In the sorrows of the Head.

Confession

God knows all our failures and imperfections, so let us confess our sins and be assured of God's mercy.

We have sought reward and recognition and believed we were deserving of it.

Lord have mercy *All* **Lord, have mercy.**

We have sought precedence over others and believed we were worthy of it.

Christ, have mercy. *All* **Christ, have mercy.**

We have thought too much of ourselves and too little of the needs of others.

Lord have mercy *All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Collect

Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Reading

A reading from the prophet Jonah

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the Lord said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.'

But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' Then the Lord said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 144

**Blessed be the Lord, my rock,
who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle;
my rock and my fortress,
my stronghold and my deliverer,
my shield, in whom I take refuge,
who subdues the peoples under me.**

**O Lord, what are human beings that you regard them,
or mortals that you think of them?**

**They are like a breath;
their days are like a passing shadow.**

**Bow your heavens, O Lord, and come down;
touch the mountains so that they smoke.**

**Make the lightning flash and scatter them;
send out your arrows and rout them.**

**Stretch out your hand from on high;
set me free and rescue me from the mighty waters,
from the hand of aliens,
whose mouths speak lies,
and whose right hands are false.**

**I will sing a new song to you, O God;
upon a ten-stringed harp I will play to you,
the one who gives victory to kings,
who rescues his servant David.**

**Rescue me from the cruel sword,
and deliver me from the hand of aliens,
whose mouths speak lies,
and whose right hands are false.**

**May our sons in their youth
be like plants full grown,
our daughters like corner pillars,
cut for the building of a palace.**

**May our barns be filled
with produce of every kind;
may our sheep increase by thousands,
by tens of thousands in our fields,
and may our cattle be heavy with young.**

**May there be no breach in the walls,^[c] no exile,
and no cry of distress in our streets.**

**Happy are the people to whom such blessings fall;
happy are the people whose God is the Lord.**

Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord to accept the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples,

‘For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, “You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.” So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, “Why are you standing here idle all day?” They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, “You also go into the vineyard.” When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, “Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.” When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ**

Talk

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

afterwards he appeared to his followers, and to all the apostles:
this we have received, and this we believe.

Amen.

Intercessions

Between the prayers we say

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers we say

Merciful God, accept our prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour
Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you **All** and also with you.

Lift up your hearts. **All** We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus
Christ, your living Word, through whom you have created all things; who
was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh; as your Son, born of the
blessed Virgin, he lived on earth and went about among us; he opened
wide his arms for us on the cross; he put an end to death by dying for
us; and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life; so he fulfilled your
will and won for you a holy people.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of
heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you
and saying:

All Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the
highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.

Distribution of Communion

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

**All Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

If you wish to receive holy communion please stand

The body of Christ

All Amen

You can now remove your mask and communion will be brought to you in silence

Chant

As Holy Communion is distributed to those in the Church we will listen to our virtual choir leading the chants, "Let all who are thirsty come" and "Jesus Christ, Bread of Life"

Let all who are thirsty come. Let all who wish receive the water of life freely. Amen, come Lord Jesus. Amen, come Lord Jesus.

**Jesus Christ, Bread of Life,
Those who come to you will not hunger.
Jesus Christ, Risen Lord,
Those who trust in you will not thirst.**

Prayer of Spiritual Communion (For those joining virtually)

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy;
and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall,
keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful,
and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

Hymn

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:

Beneath the shadow of thy throne,
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guide while troubles last,
And our eternal home!

Notices

Blessing and Dismissal

As you go out into the world,
may you be thankful for the gifts and opportunities
that you have been given by God's grace.

May you use these gifts in the furtherance of God's kingdom on earth.
And may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the
Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

*Unfortunately, now we are doing "Hybrid" services
we can no longer meet virtually after the service to share news,
and any socialising in the Church is not permitted.*

*If you are in the church, please stay in your place
until you are directed by a steward to leave the building.*

***Thank you for filling in our COVID-19 track and trace book,
if you feel unwell in the next week, please ring 07824 323815
so that we can contact others who were here today.***