

St. Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood

Sunday 7th February 2021 - 2nd Sunday before Lent

Welcome to our virtual Sunday Service. Today we are all joining together online from our homes, and we've left Christmas and Epiphany behind. We are now in 'Ordinary Time' just for a short while before Lent begins. Over the past year we might wonder what 'ordinary time' is and whether it will ever be similar to the way it was before 2020. This morning's service speaks to us of the Wisdom of God and the Word of God who have been since before the creation of the world.

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

Gathering

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

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.
Let us recognise his presence with us now.

Silence is kept

As God's people we have gathered:
let us worship him together

Hymn: Who can measure heaven and earth?

sung by St Martin's Voices

- 1 Who can measure heaven and earth?
God was present at their birth;
who can number seeds or sands?
every grain is in his hands:
through creation's countless days
every dawn sings out his praise.
- 2 Who can tell what wisdom brings,
first of all created things?

One alone is truly wise,
hidden from our earthbound eyes:
knowledge lies in him alone-
God, the Lord upon his throne!

- 3 Wisdom in his plans he laid,
planted her in all he made;
granted her to humankind,
sowed her truth in every mind:
but with richest wisdom blessed
those who love him first and best.
- 4 Wisdom gives the surest wealth,
brings her children life and health;
teaches us to fear the Lord,
marks a universe restored:
heaven and earth she will outlast-
happy those who hold her fast!

Christopher Idle
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Confession

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer;
this is your world and we are your people:
come among us and save us.

We have wilfully misused your gifts of creation;
Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

We have seen the ill-treatment of others
and have not gone to their aid;
Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

We have condoned evil and dishonesty
and failed to strive for justice;
Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

We have heard the good news of Christ,
but have failed to share it with others;
Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

We have not loved you with all our heart,
nor our neighbours as ourselves;
Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

Absolution

May the God of love
bring *us* back to himself,
forgive *us our* sins,
and assure *us* of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
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

Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

1st Reading (Proverbs 8:1 and 22-31)

A reading from the book of Proverbs

Listen! Wisdom is calling out. Reason is making herself heard. "The Lord created me first of all, the first of his works, long ago. I was made in the very beginning, at the first, before the world began. I was born before the oceans, when there were no springs of water. I was born before the mountains, before the hills were set in place, before God made the earth and its fields or even the first handful of soil. I was there when he set the sky in place, when he stretched the horizon across the ocean, when he placed the clouds in the sky, when he opened the springs of the ocean and ordered the waters of the sea to rise no further than he said. I was there when he laid the earth's foundations. I was beside him like an architect, I was his daily source of joy, always happy in his presence - happy with the world and pleased with the human race.

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

Psalm 104: 25-37

Lord, you have made so many things! How wisely you made them all!
The earth is filled with your creatures.

There is the ocean, large and wide, where countless creatures live, large and small alike.

The ships sail on it, and in it plays Leviathan, that sea monster which you made.

All of them depend on you to give them food when they need it.

You give it to them, and they eat it; you provide food, and they are satisfied.

When you turn away, they are afraid; when you take away their breath, they die and go back to the dust from which they came.

But when you give them breath, they are created; you give new life to the earth.

May the glory of the Lord last forever! May the Lord be happy with what he has made!

He looks at the earth, and it trembles; he touches the mountains, and they pour out smoke.

I will sing to the Lord all my life; as long as I live I will sing praises to my God.

May he be pleased with my song, for my gladness comes from him.

May sin be destroyed from the earth; may wickedness be no more.

Praise the Lord, my soul! Praise the Lord!

Gospel (John 1: 1-14)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God. From the very beginning the Word was with God. Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. The Word was the source of life, and this life brought light to people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.

God sent his messenger, a man named John, who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe. He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the light. This was the real light - the light that comes into the world and shines on all people.

The Word was in the world, and though God made the world through him, yet the world did not recognize him. He came to his own country, but his own people did not receive him. Some, however, did receive him and believed in him; so he gave them the right to become God's children. They did not become God's children by natural means, that is, by being born as the children of a human father; God himself was their Father.

The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Talk

Affirmation of Faith

We proclaim the Church's faith in Jesus Christ.

**We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Son of God, is both divine and human.**

God, of the being of the Father,
the only Son from before time began;
human from the being of his mother, born in the world;

**fully God and fully human;
human in both mind and body.**

As God he is equal to the Father,
as human he is less than the Father.

**Although he is both divine and human
he is not two beings but one Christ.**

One, not by turning God into flesh,
but by taking humanity into God;

**truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead,
but by being one person.**

For as mind and body form one human being
so the one Christ is both divine and human.

**The Word became flesh and lived among us;
we have seen his glory,
the glory of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.**

Intercessions

Between the prayers we say

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers we say

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

Reflection Anthem:

Fairest Lord Jesus (How)

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

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.

Closing Prayer

Gracious God
we thank you for inviting us
to enjoy the blessings of a bountiful earth.
Call forth in us the same generosity
that we find in you.
In the power of your Spirit,
raise up in us a hunger for justice,
a commitment to kindness
and a passion for service,
that we may be a blessing in the world,
in Jesus' name.

Amen

Hymn: All creatures of our God and King sung by St Martin's Voices

- 1 All creatures of our God and King
lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, alleluia.
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

- 2 Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia.
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice;
Chorus

- 3 Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia.
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest hearts both warmth and light:
Chorus

- 4 Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluia.
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them his glory also show:
Chorus

- 5 Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness;
O praise him, alleluia.
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One;
Chorus

William Henry Draper (1855-1933)

based on Laudato sii, O me signore St Francis of Assisi's Canticle of the Sun

Blessing

May God who established the dance of creation,
who transforms chaos to order,
lead us and empower us
to transform our lives
the witness of the Church
and the governments of nations
so that all might preserve and reflect
the glory of God revealed in creation;

and the blessing of God almighty
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Please join us for a ZOOM coffee and chat after the service. You will be invited to share your video and unmute your microphone. This is a great time to share news and information.

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