

# St. Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Welcome to our virtual Sunday Service as we join together online from our homes.

Today is the 5th Sunday of Lent, and the beginning of Passiontide. This means that next Sunday we will celebrate Palm Sunday - and the plan is to hold this as a hybrid service with some people in the church whilst others join online. Today is also very nearly one year since the beginning of the first Covid lockdown, and we will remember that in our prayers.

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

## Gathering

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

## Hymn

**O for a heart to praise my God**

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

- 1 O for a heart to praise my God,  
a heart from sin set free,  
a heart that always feels thy blood  
so freely spilt for me;
  
- 2 A heart resigned, submissive, meek,  
my dear redeemer's throne,  
where only Christ is heard to speak,  
where Jesus reigns alone;

- 3 A humble, lowly, contrite heart,  
believing, true, and clean;  
which neither life nor death can part  
from him that dwells within;
- 4 A heart in every thought renewed,  
and full of love divine;  
perfect, and right, and pure, and good,  
a copy, Lord, of thine!
- 5 My heart, thou know'st, can never rest  
till thou create my peace:  
till of mine Eden repossess,  
from self, and sin, I cease.
- 6 Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart;  
come quickly from above,  
write thy new name upon my heart,  
thy new, best name of love.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

### Confession

Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess we have failed you as did your first disciples.  
We ask for your mercy and your help.

When we take our ease  
rather than watch with you:  
Lord, forgive us.

**Christ have mercy.**

When we bestow a kiss of peace  
yet nurse enmity in our hearts:  
Lord, forgive us.

**Christ have mercy.**

When we strike at those who hurt us  
rather than stretch out our hands to bless:  
Lord, forgive us.  
**Christ have mercy.**

When we deny that we know you  
for fear of the world and its scorn:  
Lord, forgive us.  
**Christ have mercy.**

### Absolution

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

### Collect

Gracious Father,  
you gave up your Son  
out of love for the world:  
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,  
that we may know eternal peace  
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### Old Testament Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The Lord says, "The time is coming when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the old covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and led them out of Egypt. Although I was like a husband to them, they did not keep that covenant. The new covenant that I will make with the people of Israel will be this: I will put my law within them

and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. None of them will have to teach a neighbour to know the Lord, because all will know me, from the least to the greatest. I will forgive their sins and I will no longer remember their wrongs. I, the Lord, have spoken."

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

### Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.  
Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death,  
even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him  
and given him the name that is above every name.

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

### Gospel John 12: 20-33

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Some Greeks were among those who had gone to Jerusalem to worship during the festival. They went to Philip (he was from Bethsaida in Galilee) and said, "Sir, we want to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew, and the two of them went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has now come for the Son of Man to receive great glory. I am telling you the truth: a grain of wheat remains no more than a single grain unless it is dropped into the ground and dies. If it does die, then it produces many grains. Those who love their own life will lose it; those who hate their own life in this world will keep it for life eternal. Whoever wants to serve me must follow me, so that my servant will be with me where I am. And my Father will honour anyone who serves me.

"Now my heart is troubled - and what shall I say? Shall I say, 'Father, do not let this hour come upon me'? But that is why I came - so that I might go through this hour of suffering. Father, bring glory to your name!" Then a voice spoke from heaven, "I have brought glory to it, and I will do so again." The crowd standing there heard the voice, and some of them said it was thunder, while others said, "An angel spoke to him!" But

Jesus said to them, "It was not for my sake that this voice spoke, but for yours. Now is the time for this world to be judged; now the ruler of this world will be overthrown. When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to me. (In saying this he indicated the kind of death he was going to suffer.)

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

## Talk

### Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name;  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

### Prayers of Intercession

*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.**

## 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.**

## Anthem

### **Drop, drop, slow tears – Gibbons**

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

Drop, drop, slow tears,  
and bathe those beautiful feet  
which brought from heaven  
the news and Prince of Peace:

Cease not, wet eyes,  
his mercy to entreat;  
to cry for vengeance  
sin doth never cease.

In your deep floods  
drown all my faults and fears;  
nor let His eye  
see sin, but through my tears.

*Phineas Fletcher (1582-1650)*

## Notices

### Hymn

#### **Take up thy cross**

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

- 1 "Take up thy cross," the Saviour said,  
"if thou wouldst my disciple be;  
deny thyself, the world forsake  
and humbly follow after me."
- 2 Take up thy cross; let not its weight  
fill thy weak spirit with alarm;  
His strength shall bear your spirit up  
and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.
- 3 Take up thy cross, then, in His strength,  
and calmly every danger brave;  
'twill guide thee to a better home,  
and lead to victory o'er the grave.
- 4 Take up thy cross, and follow Christ  
nor think till death to lay it down;  
for only he who bears the cross  
may hope to wear the glorious crown.
- 5 To thee, great Lord, the One in Three,  
all praise for evermore ascend:  
O grant us in our home to see  
the heavenly life that knows no end.

*Charles William Everest (1814-1877)*

## **Blessing & Dismissal**

Christ crucified draw you to himself, to find in him a sure ground for faith,  
a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven;

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and those you love today and always.

**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord:

**thanks be to God.**

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,  
here and everywhere,  
now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

***Please get yourself a tea or coffee and then join us for the ZOOM  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 12noon after the service. You  
will be invited to share your video and unmute your microphone.***

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