

St. Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood

Sunday 20th March 2022 – 3rd Sunday of Lent

Welcome to our "Hybrid" Eucharist Service. We welcome those who are joining us here in Church, or via Zoom from their homes.

As we continue to journey with our Lord through the season of Lent, let us leave behind all distractions to focus fully on his presence and word in our worship.

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: Bind Us Together (72)

Chorus:

**Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
with cords that cannot be broken.**

**Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord,
bind us together in love.**

There is only one God,
there is only one King.
There is only one body,
that is why we sing:

Chorus:

Fit for the glory of God,
purchased by his precious Blood,
born with the right to be free:
Jesus the vict'ry has won.

Chorus:

We are the fam'ly of God,
we are his promise divine,
we are his chosen desire,
we are the glorious new wine.

Chorus:

Confession

The Lord promises abundant mercy to all who seek forgiveness. So let us humbly turn to God and make our honest confession of our sins.

For those times when we have pursued our desire for other things more than our love for the Lord.

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

For those times when we have followed the morality of our world, instead of listening to God's word.

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

For those times when we have set conditions on our service, rather than being willing to trust God's lead.

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

Absolution

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Collect

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Reading: (Isaiah 55:1-9)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord says,

“Come, everyone who is thirsty—here is water!
Come, you that have no money—buy grain and eat!
Come! Buy wine and milk—it will cost you nothing!
Why spend money on what does not satisfy?
Why spend your wages and still be hungry?
Listen to me and do what I say, and you will enjoy the best food of all.

“Listen now, my people, and come to me; come to me, and you will have life!
I will make a lasting covenant with you and give you the blessings I promised to David.

I made him a leader and commander of nations,
and through him I showed them my power.

Now you will summon foreign nations;
at one time they did not know you,
but now they will come running to join you!
I, the Lord your God, the holy God of Israel,
will make all this happen;
I will give you honour and glory.”

Turn to the Lord and pray to him, now that he is near.
Let the wicked leave their way of life and change their way of thinking.
Let them turn to the Lord, our God; he is merciful and quick to forgive.

“My thoughts,” says the Lord, “are not like yours,
and my ways are different from yours.
As high as the heavens are above the earth,
so high are my ways and thoughts above yours.

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

Psalm 63

O God, you are my God,
and I long for you.

**My whole being desires you;
like a dry, worn-out, and waterless land,
my soul is thirsty for you.**

Let me see you in the sanctuary;
let me see how mighty and glorious you are.

**Your constant love is better than life itself,
and so I will praise you.**

I will give you thanks as long as I live;
I will raise my hands to you in prayer.

**My soul will feast and be satisfied,
and I will sing glad songs of praise to you.**

As I lie in bed, I remember you;
all night long I think of you,
because you have always been my help.

**In the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
I cling to you, and your hand keeps me safe.**

Those who are trying to kill me
will go down into the world of the dead.

Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Blessed are those who have endured temptation;
they have stood the test and will receive the crown of life.

All **Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

Gospel: (Luke 13:1-9)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that time some people were there who told Jesus about the Galileans whom Pilate had killed while they were offering sacrifices to God. Jesus answered them, "Because those Galileans were killed in that way, do you think it proves that they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No indeed! And I tell you that if you do not turn from your sins, you will all die as they did. What about those eighteen people in Siloam who were killed when the tower fell on them? Do you suppose this proves that they were worse than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No indeed! And I tell you that if you do not turn from your sins, you will all die as they did."

Then Jesus told them this parable: "There was once a man who had a fig tree growing in his vineyard. He went looking for figs on it but found none. So he said to his gardener, 'Look, for three years I have been coming here looking for figs on this fig tree, and I haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it go on using up the soil?' But the gardener answered, 'Leave it alone, sir, just one more year; I will dig around it and put in some fertilizer. Then if the tree bears figs next year, so much the better; if not, then you can have it cut down.'"

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

Talk

Hymn: Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You (88)

Brother, sister let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow trave'llers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christlight for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister let me serve you,
Let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Affirmation of Faith

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

All We believe in God the Father,
God almighty, by whose plan
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.

We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary
upon whom the Spirit came.
Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.

**We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;
in one Church, below, above:
saints of God in one communion,
one in holiness and love.**

**So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end. 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.
All **Amen**

The Peace

He offered himself that we might live for ever, and blessed us with a peace that the world can neither give nor buy. Let us share this precious peace with one another.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All **and also with you**

We offer a socially distanced sign of peace to one another

Hymn: Let Us with a Gladsome Mind (392)

**Let us, with a gladsome mind,
praise the Lord, for he is kind;
for his mercies ay endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.**

**Let us blaze his name abroad,
For of gods he is the God:
for his mercies ay endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.**

He, with all-commanding might,
filled the new-made world with light:
for his mercies ay endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

He the golden-tressed sun
Caused all day his course to run;
for his mercies ay endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

And the moon to shine at night,
'mid her starry sisters bright;
for his mercies ay endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

All things living he doth feed,
his full hand supplies their need:
for his mercies ay endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

Let us, with a gladsome mind,
praise the Lord, for he is kind;
for his mercies ay endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here. *All* **His Spirit is with us.**

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.

And now we give you thanks
because you give us the spirit of discipline,
that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace,
as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery
with mind and heart renewed.

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 St. Christopher and 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

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

If you wish to receive holy communion please stand

The body of Christ

All **Amen**

Holy Communion is distributed to those in the Church.

Chant: Bless the Lord My Soul (923)

**Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.**

Jacques Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taize

Prayer of Spiritual Communion (for private prayer)

**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

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and
the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

Hymn: God's Spirit is in My Heart (231)

**God's Spirit is in my heart,
He has called me and set me apart.
This is what I have to do,
what I have to do.**

Refrain:

**He sent me to give the Good News to the poor,
tell pris'ners that they are pris'ners no more,
tell blind people that they can see,
and set the downtrodden free,
and go tell everyone the news that the kingdom of God has come,
and go tell everyone the news that the Kingdom of God has come.**

**Just as the Father sent me,
so I'm sending you out to be
my witnesses throughout the world,
the whole of the world.**

Refrain:

**Don't carry a load in your pack,
You don't need two shirts on your back.
A workman can earn his own keep,
Can earn his own keep.**

Refrain:

**Don't worry what you have to say,
Don't worry because on that day
God's Spirit will speak in your heart,
Will speak in your heart.**

Refrain:

Blessing and Dismissal

May the Father of all faithfulness uphold us,
the Son of all compassion enfold us,
the Spirit of all power indwell us.

All **Amen.**

And 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.**

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

*There are no longer any rules about wearing masks.
We encourage you to wear a mask when walking around,
However, it is a matter of personal preference.*

*The general principle of remaining socially distanced
(minimum of 2m) from anyone not in your household
is a great defence against spreading COVID.*

Please respect that others may not be comfortable with close contact.

***If you feel unwell during the week, please ring 07824 323815
so that we can contact others who were here today.***

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