

St. Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood

Service Appendix – 30th July 2023

Hymns

Gathering:	14	All Glory Laud and Honour
Gradual:	23	All That I Am (x2)
Offertory:	Sheet	In Christ Alone
Communion:	938	O Lord Hear My Prayer
Post Communion:	766	You Shall Go Out with Joy

Words of Introduction

We meet to worship God, whose wisdom is beyond all understanding, whose love is without end, and whose kingdom is open to all.

Collect

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reading: (1 Kings 3:5-12)

A reading from the first book of the Kings,

That night the Lord appeared to him in a dream and asked him, "What would you like me to give you?"

Solomon answered, "You always showed great love for my father David, your servant, and he was good, loyal, and honest in his relation with you. And you have continued to show him your great and constant love by giving him a son who today rules in his place. O Lord God, you have let me succeed my father as king, even though I am very young and don't know how to rule. Here I am among the people you have chosen to be your own, a people who are so many that they cannot be counted. So give me the wisdom I need to rule your people with justice and to know the difference between good and evil. Otherwise, how would I ever be able to rule this great people of yours?"

The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this, and so he said to him, "Because you have asked for the wisdom to rule justly, instead of long life for yourself or riches or the death of your enemies, I will do what you have asked. I will give you more wisdom and understanding than anyone has ever had before or will ever have again.

Psalm: 119

Your teachings are wonderful; I obey them with all my heart.

The explanation of your teachings gives light and brings wisdom to the ignorant.

In my desire for your commands I pant with open mouth.

Turn to me and have mercy on me as you do on all those who love you.

As you have promised, keep me from falling; don't let me be overcome by evil.

Save me from those who oppress me, so that I may obey your commands.

Bless me with your presence and teach me your laws.

My tears pour down like a river, because people do not obey your law.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia

I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

Alleluia!

Gospel: (Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52)

Jesus spoke to them in parables: "The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man takes a mustard seed and sows it in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it grows up, it is the biggest of all plants. It becomes a tree, so that birds come and make their nests in its branches."

"The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A woman takes some yeast and mixes it with a bushel of flour until the whole batch of dough rises."

"The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man happens to find a treasure hidden in a field. He covers it up again, and is so happy that he goes and sells everything he has, and then goes back and buys that field.

"Also, the Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man is looking for fine pearls, and when he finds one that is unusually fine, he goes and sells everything he has, and buys that pearl.

"Also, the Kingdom of heaven is like this. Some fishermen throw their net out in the lake and catch all kinds of fish. When the net is full, they pull it to shore and sit down to divide the fish: the good ones go into the buckets, the worthless ones are thrown away. It will be like this at the end of the age: the angels will go out and gather up the evil people from among the good and will throw them into the fiery furnace, where they will cry and gnash their teeth.

"Do you understand these things?" Jesus asked them. "Yes," they answered.

So he replied, "This means, then, that every teacher of the Law who becomes a disciple in the Kingdom of heaven is like a homeowner who takes new and old things out of his storage room."

Closing Prayer

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been fed with your body
be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever.

The Blessing

May you know the love of God the Father, whose kingdom has no end.
May you know the love of God the Son, who understands our suffering and paid the ultimate price.
May you know the love of God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us to do God's will on earth.
And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**