

St. Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood

Safeguarding Sunday – Sunday 19th November 2023

Welcome to this place on Safeguarding Sunday. A day to give thanks for all those working for the good of all of us, a day to hold in our hearts all those who have been hurt or harmed by our actions or inaction, a day to look to the future and commit to do our part to make and keep this a safer place.

As we come together in worship, let us bring to mind the gifts and opportunities we have been given by God. Let us remind ourselves that God is loving and generous and always wants the best from us and for us.

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.**

Gathering Hymn: Eternal Father, Strong to Save (153)

Confession

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:

All **Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

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.**

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

Let us pray:

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess, and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Reading: (Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18)

A reading from the book of prophet Zephaniah,

The day is near when the Lord will sit in judgment; so be silent in his presence. The Lord is preparing to sacrifice his people and has invited enemies to plunder Judah.

“At that time I will take a lamp and search Jerusalem. I will punish the people who are self-satisfied and confident, who say to themselves, ‘The Lord never does anything, one way or the other.’ Their wealth will be looted and their houses destroyed. They will never live in the houses they are building or drink wine from the vineyards they are planting.”

The great day of the Lord is near—very near and coming fast! That day will be bitter, for even the bravest soldiers will cry out in despair! It will be a day of fury, a day of trouble and distress, a day of ruin and destruction, a day of darkness and gloom, a black and cloudy day, a day filled with the sound of war trumpets and the battle cry of soldiers attacking fortified cities and high towers.

The Lord says, “I will bring such disasters on the human race that everyone will grope about like someone blind. They have sinned against me, and now their blood will be poured out like water, and their dead bodies will lie rotting on the ground.”

On the day when the Lord shows his fury, not even all their silver and gold will save them. The whole earth will be destroyed by the fire of his anger. He will put an end—a sudden end—to everyone who lives on earth.

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

Psalm: 90

O Lord, you have always been our home.
Before you created the hills or brought the world into being,
you were eternally God, and will be God forever.

**You tell us to return to what we were; you change us back to dust.
A thousand years to you are like one day;
they are like yesterday, already gone, like a short hour in the night.**

You carry us away like a flood; we last no longer than a dream.
We are like weeds that sprout in the morning, that grow and burst into bloom,
then dry up and die in the evening.

**We are destroyed by your anger; we are terrified by your fury.
You place our sins before you, our secret sins where you can see them.**

Teach us how short our life is, so that we may become wise.

Gradual Hymn: For the Healing of the Nations (186)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia
Make you home in me, as I make mine in you, say the Lord
Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.

All Alleluia.

Gospel: (Matthew 25:14-30)

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

“At that time the Kingdom of heaven will be like this. Once there was a man who was about to leave home on a trip; he called his servants and put them in charge of his property. He gave to each one according to his ability: to one he gave five thousand gold coins, to another he gave two thousand, and to another he gave one thousand. Then he left on his trip. The servant who had received five thousand coins went at once and invested his money and earned another five thousand. In the same way the servant who had received two thousand coins earned another two thousand. But the servant who had received one thousand coins went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money.

“After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The servant who had received five thousand coins came in and handed over the other five thousand. ‘You gave me five thousand coins, sir,’ he said. ‘Look! Here are another five thousand that I have earned.’ ‘Well done, you good and faithful servant!’ said his master. ‘You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!’ Then the servant who had been given two thousand coins came in

and said, 'You gave me two thousand coins, sir. Look! Here are another two thousand that I have earned.' 'Well done, you good and faithful servant!' said his master. 'You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!' Then the servant who had received one thousand coins came in and said, 'Sir, I know you are a hard man; you reap harvests where you did not plant, and you gather crops where you did not scatter seed. I was afraid, so I went off and hid your money in the ground. Look! Here is what belongs to you.' 'You bad and lazy servant!' his master said. 'You knew, did you, that I reap harvests where I did not plant, and gather crops where I did not scatter seed? Well, then, you should have deposited my money in the bank, and I would have received it all back with interest when I returned. Now, take the money away from him and give it to the one who has ten thousand coins. For to every person who has something, even more will be given, and he will have more than enough; but the person who has nothing, even the little that he has will be taken away from him. As for this useless servant—throw him outside in the darkness; there he will cry and gnash his teeth.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Talk

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All **We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All **We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All **We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

All **This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
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

It is in God that we find real love and hope. It is in God that we find real consolation and peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Let us offer each other a sign of peace

We share a sign of peace with each other

Offertory Hymn: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (437)

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, most gracious God, holy and undivided Trinity:
because you have given us the light of the knowledge of God
in the face of Jesus Christ, that we may grow into your likeness,
and be changed from glory to glory.

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.**

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,

All we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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.**

Holy Communion is distributed to those in the Church.

Communion Hymn: Nada Te Turbe (921)

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

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All Amen

Notices

Post Communion Hymn: Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory (449)

The Blessing

May God keep us safe in danger

All: Give us courage and keep us loving

May God help us to speak the truth

All: To stand by those who need our help

May God give us friends who love us

All: Places and people that help us grow

May God send us on our way rejoicing

All: And welcome us safely home

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Refreshments are served after the service.

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