

Heacham Parish Church

Easter 4 3rd May 2020

It's now our 7th Sunday without meeting in church, and I, Veronica, am really missing you and missing worshipping together, it's a been a steep learning curve as to how to do and be church, this week I am hoping that we will be able to have produced one video, with this service on: with the music, reading, etc on Heacham Parish Church You Tube channel.

For those without access to the internet:

A new telephone worship service: **Daily Hope**, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind. This is a freephone service.

Also The Diocesan weekly podcast **Sunday Hope** can be listened to via your phone by calling **01603 537577**- calls for this are charged at a local rate.

Also Zoom Church, Coffee and Chat Tuesday 11am email Veronica heacham.vicar@gmail.com if you want to join

Today's Service begins:

Alleluia, Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed, Alleluia.

As we gather in our homes, together yet apart, Jesus says, 'I am the gate.'

Come, and be loved.

Come, and receive peace.

Come, and find life.

Bible Reading: John 10: 1-10

A Reflection from Simon Wilson

At this time of uncertainty and suffering, we are very much living both in the "now and also the "not yet". We are living our lives in ways unimaginable just a few weeks ago. Whilst in the present, we are discovering Zoom and Joe Wicks and his workouts, Captain Tom's walking, banging saucepans on Thursday nights to applaud the NHS and discovering the "joys" of home education. Our community is finding ways to serve one another. At the same time we are yearning for that time when we can be together or even just to be able to venture outside our houses and gardens. We are Easter people living in a Good Friday world. Like the disciples who encountered the Risen Jesus, we do not know what the new normal will be.

This Sunday is designated Good Shepherd Sunday. When we think of the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep,

we are encountering the key workers of their day -hard workers in tough working conditions, poorly paid but doing vital work. The Bible is not clear about whether they had adequate PPE to fight off the wolf threatening the lives of those in their care!

One good thing from this Covid life is that some of the more unheralded workers are finally getting the respect they deserve: the delivery driver, the care home worker, the bus driver, the supermarket shelf filler, the nurse or the cleaner etc. The Church of England also sees today as Vocation Sunday, well this year the vocations we value have changed. Long may that continue!

As one of those suffering from a chronic condition, I am on 12 week lockdown so am living with being shielded and gated-separated from the rest of the flock. For us, the gate we read about in John 10 becomes both a means of exclusion on one level but on another, a path to liberation. Jesus the gatekeeper is our way to safety, leading us to a restful place where we know we are loved and protected: shielded. When the time is right he will not only let us out into a changed world with the stumbling blocks and anxieties that we will encounter but promises to be at our side as we do so.

Jesus is the gate-the entry point to that place of change, depth, struggle and love, simultaneously terrifying and exhilarating. Sometimes we wish there was no gate: firm boundaries, bullet proof and siege resistant but before long God reminds us of that aching hole in our hearts where insight and endless possibilities lie: the glorious green pastures beside still waters- awaiting us all when this time passes. That world is out there. The now and the not yet.

Amen

Song: The Lords my shepherd MP 1008

**The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want
He makes me lie in pastures green
He leads me by the still, still waters
His goodness restores my soul**

**And I will trust in You alone
And I will trust in You alone
For Your endless mercy follows me
Your goodness will lead me home**

**He guides my ways in righteousness
And He anoints my head with oil
And my cup, it overflows with joy
I feast on His pure delights**

**And though I walk the darkest path
I will not fear the evil one
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know**

Prayers

Let us pray to God,
who alone makes us dwell in safety:

For all who are affected by coronavirus,
through illness or isolation or anxiety,
that they may find relief and recovery:

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation and world at this time,
and shaping policies,
that they may make wise decisions:

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,
that through their skill and insights
many will be restored to health:

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For cleaners, shop workers, funeral directors, delivery drivers,
carers, and many others whose vital work is so often unnoticed
and unvalued may they feel appreciated and valued.

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful,
for the gravely ill and the dying,
that they may know your comfort and peace:

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

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

We say the Lords Prayer

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
give you his peace, his joy, his hope and his light
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the
Holy Spirit be with you and those you love now and forever.
Amen

He is not here. He is risen.

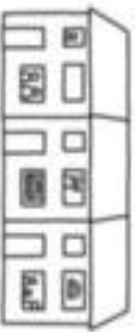
Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

BEATTITUDES

FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO STAY INDOORS
FOR THEY HAVE PROTECTED OTHERS



BLESSED ARE THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED
FOR THEIR NEED OF GOD IS GREAT



BLESSED ARE THE CORNER SHOPKEEPERS
FOR THEY ARE THE PURVEYORS OF SCARCE THINGS



BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL WORKERS
FOR THEY ARE THE BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL THINGS



BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL WORKERS, THE AMBULANCE CREWS, THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS
FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS



BLESSED ARE THE CHECKOUT WORKERS



FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION

BLESSED ARE THE REFUSE COLLECTORS



FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD DESPITE THE MOUNTAINS OF WASTE

BLESSED ARE THE TEACHERS



FOR THEY REMAIN STEADFAST AND CONSTANT IN DISTURBING TIMES

BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH WORKERS, THE DEACONS, PRIESTS AND BISHOPS



FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING PRESENCE IN A HURTING WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD

BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE PARENTS,



FOR THEY ARE COPING ALONE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THERE IS NO RESPIRE

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ALONE.



FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND WITH HIM THEY WILL NEVER BE LONELY

BLESSED ARE THE BEREAVED.



FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS ALREADY HAPPENED THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR ABUSERS



FOR ONE DAY - WE PRAY- THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY

BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS; ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY



MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT, MAY YOU KNOW CALM, AND MAY THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN