



Heacham Parish Church

To find Heacham Parish Church on Youtube search for Heacham Parish Church and you will find all songs and previous services.

Sunday 10th May 2020 Easter 5

Alleluia, Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed, Alleluia.

As we gather in our homes, together yet apart,

Jesus says, I am the Way – come!

Jesus says, I am the Way and the Truth – come and receive.

Jesus says, I am the Way, the Truth and the Life – come, receive, and respond.

Dear Lord, as we gather in your name,

listen to us and bring us peace;

be our rock and our refuge, that we may be made strong;

let your face shine upon us, that we may show your love.

Amen.

Song: Beautiful Saviour by Stuart Townend

All my days I will sing this song of gladness,

Give my praise to the Fountain of delights;

For in my helplessness You heard my cry,

And waves of mercy poured down on my life.

I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer,

I will sing of the blood that never fails;

Of sins forgiven, of conscience cleansed,
Of death defeated and life without end.

Beautiful Saviour, Wonderful Counsellor,
Clothed in majesty, Lord of history,
You're the Way, the Truth, the Life.
Star of the Morning, glorious in holiness,
You're the Risen One, heaven's Champion
And You reign, You reign over all.

I long to be where the praise is never-ending,
Yearn to dwell where the glory never fades;
Where countless worshippers will share one song,
And cries of 'worthy' will honour the Lamb!

Bible Reading: John 14 1-14

Reflection by Penny Sutton

On Friday we celebrated the 75th anniversary of VE Day. A day which promised liberation from the privations and strictures of war and a new world to come. Today we expect to hear how the government proposes to liberate us from "lock-down" as Covid-19 comes under control. I am struck by the parallels between these two situations.

As post-war UK resumed civilian life there was a great resurgence of faith and revival occurred widely across this land. If the same thing were to happen now, as the Church in Heacham what would our role be? Are we ready, willing and able to play our part?

In our reading from John Ch 14 Jesus gives some helpful instructions. First and foremost, he says do not be upset by what is happening around you. Trust in God and trust in me. There is a place in heaven for all who put their trust in him. Like the

disciples, friends and neighbours may ask us "How can we know the way?" The answer "Jesus is the way, the truth and the life" whilst true takes a lot of 'unpacking' for those with little or no Christian background.

So, where do we begin? Jesus tells us he has been sent by God the Father to proclaim the Good News, the gospel. At v12 in our reading he says, "anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing". Thus, the Church is charged with proclaiming the gospel. The Church's Mission is broader than that. It is to establish the Kingdom of God/heaven here. i.e. the rule of God on earth. That is what we pray every time we say the Lord's prayer. "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

There are three elements to this.

1. The gospel:- the world around us exhibits the corruption of God's creation. As believers, the resurrection gives us confidence in the gospel. We are 'Easter people'. Hope for the world is in the resurrection and a renewed creation to come.
2. The local Church:- It is the Kingdom of God not the institution of the Church that should be the centre of the local church's life and activity. Jesus invites us to be agents of his transforming mercy and grace as he builds his Kingdom throughout our community.
3. Individual believers:- Truth is linked to trust. Jesus says, "anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing". Mission is telling the truth, sometimes talking about God the Father or Jesus Christ and his work. Implicit in this is asking the hearer to trust us. Our life must be seen to match the message we deliver, or we lose all credence.

Are we ready, willing and able to play our part? By the grace of Jesus most definitely yes. V 14 tells us "You may ask for anything in my name and I will do it"

Let us prepare and make ourselves willing, as Jesus enables us to fulfill our mission.

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

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

Amen.

Prayers of intercession written by Peter and Chris Murray

O love of God, our shield and stay through all the perils of our way!

Eternal love, in you we rest, forever safe, forever blest.

Lord, in this time of uncertainty we pray that you would support and sustain us and strength our faith in you. Especially we pray for all who are anxious, isolated and distressed, that your presence will be close to them.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for all who are ill or in pain, especially those in our community. Guide all who are caring for them.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for all affected by coronavirus, that they might find relief and recovery, for their families and for all medical staff in hospitals, especially our local hospital. Give wisdom for all who are searching for a cure.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the well-being of our nation at this anxious time. Guide our leaders and all who make important decisions for our future.

Lord, make your ways known to us, enable us to see the needs of others and help us to do your will, for Jesus sake, Amen.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me show love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light and where there is sadness, joy. O divine master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

We say the Lord's Prayer

Musical Offering from the Flower family

1. We've a story to tell to the nations,
That shall turn their hearts to the right,
A story of truth and mercy,
A story of peace and light.

◦ *Refrain:*

For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
And the dawning to noonday bright;
And Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
The kingdom of love and light.

2. We've a Saviour to show to the nations,
Who the path of sorrow has trod,
That all of the world's great peoples
Might come to the truth of God.

◦ *Refrain:*

For the darkness shall turn to dawning....

3. We've a message to give to the nations,
That the Lord who reignth above
Hath sent us His Son to save us
And show us that God is love.

Refrain:

For the darkness shall turn to dawning....

Blessing

May God bless you, guide you and direct you.

May God bless you, give you strength and the assurance of his
love.

May God bless you and fill your life with his presence –
today and always.

Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

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, Tea and Chat will be in the afternoon next week Thursday at 3pm.

Veronica Wilson is inviting you to: Church, coffee and chat... afternoon tea!

THURSDAY 14th MAY 3pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9960936343>

Meeting ID: 996 093 6343

You can use this link from your computer or contact Veronica at heacham.vicar@gmail.com and she will invite you.

