



Heacham Parish Church

19th July 2020 Sunday Service
Heacham Parish Church at home

David and Kath play Reverie, which is part of a suite David composed for Kath.

Grace mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you **and also with you**

As we gather in our homes, together yet apart, we meet in the presence of God

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

Lord, speak to us that we might hear your word.

Move among us that we may behold your glory.

Receive our prayers that we may learn to trust you. Amen

Prayers of Confession:

God our Father, we are sorry for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly,
and acted ungratefully.

Hear our prayer, and in your mercy: **forgive us and help us.**

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest, but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.

Father, in your mercy: **forgive us and help us.**

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied, but ignore the cry of the hungry.

Father, in your mercy: **forgive us and help us.**

We are thoughtless, and do not care enough for the world you have made.

Father, in your mercy: **forgive us and help us.**

We store up goods for ourselves alone, as if there were no God and no heaven.

Father, in your mercy: **forgive us and help us.**

The Lord enrich us with his grace,
and nourish us with his blessing;
the Lord defend us in trouble and keep us from all evil;
the Lord accept our prayers,
and absolve us from our offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Amen.

Song: At the name of Jesus played and sung by, Lesley,
Rosie, Hilary and Colin

HON 54 'At the name of Jesus' omit vv3 and 4 Please add words

Bible Reading: Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43 read by Pam Lee

Reflection by Pip Lawrence.

Let's pray,

Father, thank you for the power of your word. As we look briefly at it now, we ask that you will speak to our hearts, and also

prompt us to dwell on it more deeply in our homes. We ask in Jesus name. Amen

Lock down has lent us all more time so I hope we have been using it well, deepening our knowledge of the Word, spending more time in prayer, not just watching the television. Although sometimes that can be useful. For example this week on the news channels there was mention of the iconic film 'The good, the bad and the ugly'.

The film title is a useful summary of the parable of the weeds. The parable comes, along with others, at a pivotal point in Matthew's gospel. All the parables are a powerful picture, with evocative imagery which summarises disclosure and opposition. They are a sort of hinge on which this gospel turns. The bigger picture is revealed, who is Jesus, what is his purpose, and crucially how do we respond to him? All the parables in chapter 13 are Christ centred. They point to the Jesus who reveals and conceals and they prompt us to consider our own relationship with the living God.

The parable of the weeds is particularly challenging. We see in it that the good, the bad and the ugly have to occupy the same space. Under the cover of darkness the enemy sows his weeds in amongst the good seeds of the field. The result being, good occupies the space along with the bad and the inevitable ugly result, the fall out of sin. We are informed that this situation will be so until the time of harvest, when the good will be gathered in to the Father's barn and the bad bundled up and burned.

The field is the world we live in. We are sons and daughters of the kingdom living alongside those who choose to go their own way, who willingly embrace the ugliness of evil and sin. There is always going to be collateral damage, it is the fallout of free will.

The current pandemic is an extreme example of living in a fallen world where a virus can cause untold damage and harm.

What is our response? As sons and daughters of the kingdom we are called to trust, believe and hold on to our Lord in both the good times and the bad times. We must never lose sight of the fact that our Father created the world to be good.

His goodness permeates the world we live in, it overcomes the bad and the ugly and the evil. The creator loves his creation and us. He has blessed us, guarded us and kept us, but all within the framework of free will. So things will go wrong, like at the moment when most of us are still reeling from the current situation and it's attendant difficulties. Like times in our lives when we face challenging situations which leave us bereft, sad and struggling. All we can do in these times is hang on and remind ourselves that the darkness will not have the last word. Despite the fallout of sin, mishap and misfortune and pandemic God is a constant certainty. God is for us and ultimately nothing can stand against us if we have placed our trust in him.

One day our good creator will lead us home and to a place where we will finally understand those things that have hurt us, puzzled us, or derailed us. "then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their father. He who has ears let him/her hear" Amen.

Song: (All I know) Though I feel afraid by Ian White sung by Karen and Terry

Though I feel afraid of territory unknown,
I know that I can say that I do not stand alone.
For Jesus you have promised your presence in my heart;
I cannot see the ending, but it's here that I must start.
And all I know is you have called me,
and that I will follow is all I can say.

I will go where you will send me
and your fire lights my way.
What lies across the waves may cause my heart to fear;
will I survive the day, must I leave what's known and dear?
A ship that's in the harbour is still and safe from harm
But it was not built to be there,
it was made for wind and storm.
And all I know is you have called me,
and that I will follow is all I can say.
I will go where you will send me
and your fire lights my way.

Prayers of intercession led by Jennifer Aickin

Let us remember that we come in prayer to the Lord of Lords and King of Kings Who is able to do more than we can ask or think. This is our time of asking – that God will act and answer according to His will. Prayer changes things and prayer changes people - including those who pray.

After each section I will say "Lord in Your mercy -" please answer "Hear our prayer"

1. Loving heavenly Father we are aware of some but not all of the needs of people around the world. We pray for Your presence, comfort and support for all who suffer war, hunger, violence, homelessness. We ask for wisdom, integrity and vision for world leaders in their varied circumstances. We specially remember the devastation of Covid19 in countries whose healthcare systems are overwhelmed.

Lord in Your mercy **hear our prayer**

2. We pray for our own country asking that our government – central and local – will be increasingly aware of the need for Your wisdom and guidance in caring for our people in these unusual times. Please help Christian Members of Parliament and Councillors to be consistent in their faith, always reflecting the love of Jesus however hard that is at times.

Lord in Your mercy **hear our prayer**

3. We pray for our village – this beautiful, friendly, helpful place in which we live, thanking You for it, its amenities and its people. We pray for the church family that we will be “good seed”, ambassadors for Christ. Equip us to follow Your guidance especially about how to resume worship in the church building. Thank You for all the help that the online services, prayer and coffee times have been to so many people. Thank you for all the effort and love that have been given to enable us to keep worshipping together while apart. Please give wisdom to the PCC and ministry team as they plan for the future.

We pray for the shops and other businesses in the village that they will be able to survive the lock-down effect on their finances.

Lord in Your mercy **hear our prayer**

4. We remember before You and lift to Your loving care those who have been bereaved. Comfort them in their grief and lead them on to cope with life again. Teach us how we can offer acceptable help and friendship.

We pray for those who are nearing the end of earthly life that they will be looking forward to meeting You, Face to face. Take them gently to Yourself, all tiredness and suffering over, joy for evermore.

We pray for the sick in body, mind or spirit that they will get the help they need. Please help the staff at the surgery and in social services to make wise decisions. We thank You again for our brave key workers and ask for safety and refreshment for them.

Lord in Your mercy **hear our prayer**

5. Finally Lord we pray for ourselves, for our walk with You, for the opportunities we are given to serve our community in the love of Jesus. Help us as we look out at the needs and difficulties in every place to remember to look up to the One who has the whole world in His hand and Who loves and knows every person and all about them.

Thank You for hearing us: thank You for being our God.

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

Amen

We pray together the **Lord 's Prayer** lead by John Bird

Final Prayer

God of the harvest, send us out to sow, support us as we tend,
and bless us as we reap –
all in your holy name. Amen.

Blessing

May God who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the sky,
who leads the lambs to pasture and the deer to water,
who multiplied loaves and fishes and changed water into wine,
lead us, feed us, multiply us,
and change us to reflect the glory of our Creator
now and through all eternity;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the
Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you and those you
love always.

All Amen.

*Adrian plays Gigout - Grand Choeur dialogue on the church pipe
organ*

HEACHAM PARISH CHURCH online service will be on
YouTube from 8am on Sunday morning
www.youtube.com/channel/UCEfWbBrE77u7MPpdjWtwzow

Sunday Morning Prayer at 10am

Colin & Rosie are hosting the prayer.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9479665864?pwd=SEp5bi91VWJHZXgzdWFuWmRXRFJOUT09>

Meeting ID: 947 966 5864

Passcode: 142806

NEXT WEEK: Morning Prayer: Monday, Wed and Thursday

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9960936343?pwd=TIerVHp3UHBzZHNTSm16QzdCNUY0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 996 093 6343 Password: 150936

Morning Prayer Tuesday and Friday ask Veronica for this link.

Church Open for private prayer

Saturday afternoons 2-4pm and Wed 10-12noon.

For those without access to the internet:

The 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**.

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.