



Heacham Parish Church

Heacham Parish Church on-line

Sunday 30th August 2020

Welcome to this service in the name of The Lord Jesus Christ who says "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Leader: Grace, mercy and peace from God our father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: we meet in the precious name of Jesus in church, on line or with a service sheet in our homes. Wherever we are, we acknowledge and welcome the presence of our triune God. We hold silence and prepare our hearts to worship.

We pray together:

**Lord of all the seasons and years our times are in your hands. As we meet together, though apart, we pray that you will fill us all afresh with your life giving Holy Spirit. Help us all to be attentive to your leading, and the reading of your word. Help us to pray according to your good and pleasing will. Enable us all to worship you in spirit and in truth, for we ask in Jesus name.
Amen**

Leader: The word says that " if we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." So we hold silence and make our confession in our hearts.

Leader: May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song Purify my heart

**Purify my heart,
let me be as gold and precious silver
purify my heart
let me be as gold, pure gold**

**Refiner's fire, my hearts one desire
is to be holy,
set apart for you Lord
I choose to be holy
set apart for You my Master
ready to do your will**

**Purify my heart,
cleans me from within
and make me holy;
purify my heart,
cleans me from my sin, deep within.**

**Refiner's fire, my hearts one desire
is to be holy,
set apart for you Lord
I choose to be holy
set apart for You my Master
ready to do your will**

We have our reading **Matthew 16: 21-28**. Today, online read by Lynn.

Reflection on our Reading by Peter Murray

MATTHEW 16:24

"I Offer neither pay, nor quarters, nor provisions; I offer hunger, thirst, forced marches, battles and death. Let him who loves his country with his heart and not with his lips only, follow me". With these words the nineteenth century freedom fighter Giuseppe Garibaldi appealed for recruits and raised an extremely committed volunteer army.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran pastor executed by the Germans three days before the end of world war 2, said "Salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you your life". Bonhoeffer clearly had in mind the words of Jesus in verse 24 of today's reading: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me". in Luke 9:23 it says "take up his cross daily..."). It's important to understand what this verse doesn't mean because it is often misinterpreted. People frequently refer to a particular problem – a difficult relationship, a boring job, an illness – as "a cross I have to bear". This isn't what Jesus meant. Taking up the cross is voluntary. The expression is metaphorical but nevertheless deeply challenging.

Following Jesus is costly and demanding – the discipline and responsibilities as well as the benefits are all part of the journey of faith. Even Jesus' close disciples needed to be reminded of this, and many potential followers lost interest when Jesus spelt it out what discipleship would involve. And in our own consumerist society this teaching is definitely counter – cultural.

The disciples and others knew what carrying a cross would mean literally. The Romans would force convicted criminals to carry their own crosses to the place of execution. In using this phrase Jesus was making clear that in following him there is a call to obedience. This is impossible for us unless we experience the putting to death of our own selfish desires and priorities, and that is only achieved through the grace of God operating within us to motivate us.

But this is faith in action, God enabling us to do what we cannot do without his help. It is true that there will be times when living out the faith will result in misunderstanding, misrepresentation, loss of

friendships or reputation. But, as Bonhoeffer tells us in his book "Cost of discipleship"- "To endure the cross is not a tragedy; it is the suffering which is the fruit of an exclusive allegiance to Jesus Christ".

We are called to take up the cross and follow in response to what God has done for us in Christ, out of gratitude and love. Yet, paradoxically, it actually results in finding life. In Matthew 16:25 Jesus says that "Whoever loses his life for me will find it". For Bonhoeffer it was literally true. Whatever our circumstances, discipleship is always life giving and life fulfilling. Amen.

If we are able we will stand, and together affirm what we believe:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was
buried;**

**he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the
Father,**

and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and everlasting life. Amen.**

Our prayers will be led by Sue Spencer online and in church.

God beyond us,

God with us,

God inside us,

We worship you

God outside us,

God among us,

God within us
We praise you
God the father,
God the Son,
God the Holy Spirit,
We honour you

Great and loving God, we greet you this day with praise and wonder. We greet you as the creator of the ends of the earth, sovereign over space and time, greater than we ever imagine. We greet you this day with joy and thanksgiving. We greet you as our Lord, our friend, and our saviour.

We greet this day and we praise you that you are here to greet us and everyone, today and every day, here and everywhere. Help us to meet with you and grow closer to you. Help us to glimpse your glory and make it known through all we say and do to the glory of your name.

Lord in your Mercy, Hear our prayer

Holy God, we pray for your church and ask that it might always provide a solid foundation upon which we can anchor our lives. We especially pray for Christians who pay a heavy price for their faith; who daily experience hostility, from their governments, employers and neighbours, as a result of their identification with Christ.

We pray for those Christians around the world who are persecuted yet continue to serve. We pray for those here Lord for whom persecution may not be life threatening, who by declaring their Faith in you it adds complications and pressure on to relationships and can make lives uncomfortable. We pray your presence in to these situations, knowing that your love, grace and mercy will overcome all.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Creator God, you created us to be stewards of your creation but we have chopped down forests, polluted the air, poisoned the rivers and seas, destroyed the places where animals live and then pursued them to extinction. Help us change our ways so that we can look after the world, and to make it the way that you want it to be. Lord we know that we cannot all do things the same, and we may not be able to make big changes, but together our small things will bring about big change

Lord in your Mercy, Hear our prayer

Lord, as we continue moving through the current pandemic and its inevitable aftermath, there will be moments when all will seem lost. We are going to be uncomfortable, sad, frustrated, and confused. We will be dealing with a complex problem that will resist our best solutions. Yet, it is in our weakness that God's strength shines through. Gracious God, We, pray for the ill, the lonely and distressed especially those tormented by fear arising from the Global Pandemic. We pray for healing and wholeness in their lives and we pray for ourselves. Help us to bring life and love, joy and hope, to those who live in despair and give help to all those treating the effects of Covid-19 and those working to find a cure. We ask Lord that you will be with the bereaved in their loneliness and give them the faith to look beyond their present troubles to your Son Jesus Christ who died and rose again and who lives forevermore. In a moment of quiet, we will each bring to you, the needs of those people you have placed on our hearts.

Lord in your Mercy, Hear our Prayer

Faithful God forgive us when we only turn to you when things trouble us and when we forget to thank you for your blessings and bounty. Help us to recognise all the wonderful things in your world for which we should be grateful and send us out into the coming week ready to show our gratitude in all that we do and say.

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

Song: I want to walk with Jesus Christ

**I want to walk with Jesus Christ
All the days I live of this life on earth
To give to Him complete control
Of body and of soul**

**Follow Him, follow Him
Yield your life to Him
He has conquered death
He is King of kings
Accept the joy which He gives to those**

who yield their lives to Him.

**I want to learn to speak too Him
To pray to Him, confess my sin
To open my life and let Him in
For joy will then be mine.**

**I want to learn to speak of Him
My life must show that He lives in me
My deeds, my thoughts, my words must speak
All of His love for me.**

**I want to learn to read His word
For this is how I know the way
To live my life as pleases Him
In holiness and joy.**

**O Holy Spirit of the Lord
Enter now into this heart of mine
Take full control of my selfish will
And make me wholly Thine!**

We pray together;

**Thank you loving Heavenly Father for being with us, in church,
on line, in our homes. Help us this coming week to remember
that we are your ambassadors. Help us all to love you and serve
you and those you call us to be alongside with your grace and
strength. For we ask in Jesus name. Amen.**

May the road rise to meet you; may the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face, and the rain fall soft upon your fields.

Until we meet again may God hold you in the hollow of His hand. Amen.

Adrian plays 'Procession' – Francis Jackson.

Church Open for private prayer

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

Rotas Penny Taylor will be making a new rota for volunteer welcomers both for Wed and Saturdays and Sunday services in September. If you have dates you can't do please contact her on email

heacham.church@gmail.com

HEACHAM PARISH CHURCH online service will be on YouTube from 8am on Sunday am

www.youtube.com/channel/UCefWbBrE77u7MPpdjWtwzow

Morning Prayer Mon, use link below

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74790926193?pwd=TDdibjk0S3NDM0MzNmZOU2NoemZ5UT09>

Meeting ID: 747 9092 6193 Passcode: 9zL7N7
Wednesday MP contact Bernard and Kate.

Mary Sanders Funeral Mon 7th September

Due to the current COVID restrictions people at Mary's funeral has had to be limited to those that the family have arranged to be invited. As a tribute to Mary we do plan to have some flowers placed in church from the congregation. If you would like to make a contribution to these flowers contact Sue Bird on 570150.

Macmillan Brave the Shave Christina has done this and would welcome a donation for this online. Bravetheshavemacmillan donate and find her. She has already raised over £300.