



Heacham Parish Church

**Heacham Parish Church on-line**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

*Shona plays as the deer pants as we gather*

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

Together we come to worship, individuals gathered as one in the name of the Lord.

**Amen.**

Loving God, calm my heart and still my mind.

Fill me with a spirit of understanding.

Let me be slow to take offence and quick to forgive.

As water finds its way through cracks, let your peace find its way

through hardened hearts.

Let your grace flow through all our dealings,  
your love through all we do together,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Song: The king is among us** sung and  
played by Sue, Judith, Lynda, Colin, Rosie,  
Richard, Hilary and Lesley.

**The King is among us,  
His Spirit is here,  
Let's draw near and worship,  
Let songs fill the air.**

**He looks down upon us,  
Delight in His face,  
Enjoying His children's love,  
Enthralled by our praise.**

**For each child is special,  
Accepted and loved,  
A love gift from Jesus  
To His Father above.**

**And now He is giving  
His gifts to us all,  
For no one is worthless**

**And each one is called.**

**The Spirit's anointing  
On all flesh comes down,  
And we shall be channels  
For works like His own.**

**Bible Reading: Matthew 18: 15-20**

read by Barbara Jennings

### **A Reflection from Penny Sutton**

Our reading this morning is about reconciliation of people with different points of view.

What is reconciliation? To accountants and bookkeepers reconciliation is making sure that two sets of figures agree. It is used to ensure that money leaving an account is the same as money spent. Biblical reconciliation has a wider application. God created a perfect world. In the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve experienced completeness and wholeness with God, with others and with creation. This was spoiled by sin. People's relationship with God was broken.

This resulted in relationships between people and between people and the environment being broken. So, reconciliation is the restoration of that completeness and wholeness with God, with others and with creation.

As we look around our world, we see the results of not practising reconciliation between people. World-wide we see suicide bombings, campaigns of terror, genocide, repression and racial discrimination resulting in thousands of displaced people making perilous journeys to seek asylum in "safe" countries. Within our own country we see broken marriages, split families, feuds between neighbours and currently disputes over disregarded public health guidance for safeguarding against Covid-19. We are not at peace at any level. So where do we start? We must each deal with the issues which affect us personally.

Many people take the 'paper over the cracks' denial remedy. Pretending there is no problem, refusing to face the facts, swallowing anger and resentment and carrying on as normal while raging inside. Maybe avoiding the other person

or pretending they don't exist! Some Christians take this option believing this to be what forgiveness means. It is not. If a person has been offensive, aggressive, bullying, dishonest or immoral, nothing is gained by creating false reconciliation and failing to confront the wrong which has been done. True forgiveness comes only with acknowledgement that a wrong has been done, it did matter and it has been dealt with.

In our passage Jesus recommends a sequence of actions for dealing with such a situation. He gives a procedure for reconciliation.

(i) The two people should meet face to face in private. -If the offender won't listen then:

(ii) They should meet again with one or two others present. -If the offender still won't listen then:

(iii) The matter should be taken to the local Church. - Continued refusal to listen will result in the person being treated as a pagan or tax collector.

You may feel this is not appropriate for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Well, it worked at the turn of the century! In 1995 Archbishop Desmond Tutu became chairman of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission which was set up to mitigate the effects of apartheid on South African society. He applied these principles in that work with great success.

In his letter to the Church in Corinth Paul tells us that God has given **us** the Ministry of Reconciliation. Calling us 'Christ's Ambassadors' he tells us that we have a responsibility to share the message of reconciliation with others.

At each stage of the sequence we are told what to do if the person won't listen and finally to treat them as a pagan or tax collector. How did Jesus treat pagans and tax collectors? He befriended them and 'loved' them into the Kingdom.

The final verses hold both a promise and a warning. We are assured of God's presence with us in this ministry and reminded that he sees and knows the innermost thoughts and truth of

the heart of each one.

God listens. The unreconciled person does not.

**Song: All I once held dear** sung and played  
by Karen, Terry, Lesley and Hilary

**All I once held dear, built my life upon  
All this world reveres, and wars to own  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss  
Spent and worthless now, compared to  
this**

**Knowing you, Jesus  
Knowing you, there is no greater thing  
You're my all, you're the best  
You're my joy, my righteousness  
And I love you, Lord**

**Now my heart's desire is to know you more  
To be found in you and known as yours  
To possess by faith what I could not earn  
All-surpassing gift of righteousness  
Knowing you....  
Oh, to know the power of your risen life  
And to know You in Your sufferings**

**To become like you in your death, my Lord  
So with you to live and never die  
Knowing you....**

**Prayers of intercession** led by Gordon Taylor

Father God, we pray for your church here in Heacham, as we look to proclaim your gospel of love and truth. We pray that we would be open to the work of the Holy Spirit in each of our lives. We place Veronica, and all those within the ministry team before you, that your will would be revealed to them, as they look to guide us in the days ahead.

Make us a welcoming body of Christ here at St Mary's so when people think about the Church they think about the real church, the people of God who worship here.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonder of our being, for mind, body and spirit. Be with our children as they begin a new school year. Bless them and their teachers and staff.



Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow, wisdom and knowledge to their minds as they search for understanding, and peace and zeal to their hearts.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! When we see the work of your hands – the earth, the heavens, the moon, the stars, the beauty of your creation, we praise and worship you alone, almighty God. We thank you for all your creation and for your people throughout the world in all their differing cultures and environments. We pray for all humankind and especially for those suffering poverty, persecution, slavery, oppression, injustice, and the effects of conflict. We ask you to give compassion, wisdom, and courage to your children throughout the world that they and we may defend those who suffer and work to bring relief wherever we can.

As more people continue to be affected by the corona virus. God of healing and hope, in Jesus

you meet us in our places of pain and fear. Look with mercy on those who have contracted the virus, on any who are vulnerable, and on all who feel in danger. Through this time of global concern, by your Holy Spirit bring out the best not the worst in us. Make us more aware of our interdependence on each other, and of the strength that comes from being one body in you.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Loving Lord, we pray today for our neighbours and those who live in our communities.

We pray a blessing over each person and every household and we ask that each one will be filled with your peace and experience fullness of life.

Where there is goodness and abundance, we pray for a spirit of gratitude and joy; where there is pain and challenge, we pray that there would be an awareness of your presence with them in and through all things.

We pray for ourselves that we may be neighbours who are Beacons of Hope,

embodying and sharing your light, life and love through the faithful daily witness of our discipleship.

Please Lord, would you would stir up in us a deeper desire to bless and serve and pray for our neighbours and fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we may see with your eyes and respond with your love and grace.

We long for you to be lifted up and glorified in our lives and our communities today.

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

Loving God, your Son brought comfort and healing to all who came to Him in distress. We bring to you now those who we know are suffering any sort of pain or distress. As we pause to remember those who we know, we ask that you meet their needs with your love and compassion, and lighten their darkness, through the eternal flame of your Spirit.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

**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  
Herbert and Rachel Karrach from Nepal

### **Final Prayer**

Go forth into the world in peace;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil;  
honour everyone.  
Go to love and serve the Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Blessing**

May the love of God be yours.  
May the gentleness of Christ be yours.  
May the peace of the Spirit be yours.  
And may the Trinity bless you today and always.

**Amen.**

*Shona plays as water to the thirsty as we finish*

*If you no longer wish to receive this email please  
contact Penny on [heacham.church@gmail.com](mailto:heacham.church@gmail.com)  
or 01485 572539.*

## **Church Open for private prayer**

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

## **HEACHAM PARISH CHURCH online service**

will be on YouTube from 8am on Sunday am

<https://youtu.be/borvHJZy0Bw>

## **Mary Sanders Funeral Mon 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **A letter from Veronica**

Hello from the vicarage, and apologies if you have tried to ring there has a problem with my phone.

Thank you for everyone who has done their bit while I have been away, in church, online and behind the scenes. We had a good break, and I am feeling refreshed and pleased to be back here in Heacham.

The next few months look like they are going to be tough as we continue to live with COVID and as the new normal emerges and the nights draw in. Much will have to be different for us as a church, many of the events, regular groups and services we usually have through the autumn, Advent and Christmas will need to change, we will not be able to do everything we have done before, but we do have an opportunity to do things differently and creatively.

Our Community Corona Support will continue for those who need it in the village, and we need to give some thought to what else we could do as a church to serve our community and each other, particularly in the next couple of months. How can we show God's love and hope in the present time?

We also need to think about and review both our online and in church services, as we said we would do in September.

It's time to honestly review, and realistically plan what we can do within the current restrictions for the rest of the year (Sept, Oct, Nov and Dec).

I, the ministry team and the PCC would welcome any thoughts, reflections or ideas you have about how we might do and be church over the next 4 months. We have a joint PCC and Ministry team via zoom on Monday 14th September, where we will be discussing and planning, so would appreciate input before then!

***Look back and thank God***  
***Look forward and trust God***  
***Look around and serve God***  
***Look up and seek God***

with my love and prayers  
Veronica

