



Heacham Parish Church

Heacham Parish Church on-line

Sunday 13th September 2020

Opening music: -

Adrian Flower plays a setting by JS Bach of: -

Lord Jesus Christ, reveal your holy face and send the Spirit of your grace to fill our hearts with fervent zeal. To learn your truth and do your will.

Welcome to our Service of worship on Sunday 13th September-.

Today, some are reading this from hard copy. Others are joining us via You-tube and watching on phone, tablet or pc, while others are together in Church. We meet at different times and in different ways but we are all part of one body, the Church of Jesus Christ.

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

and also, with you.

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.
Let us recognize his presence with us.

Silence is kept.

As God's people we have gathered:

let us worship him together.

Loving God, we have come to worship you.

**Help us to pray to you in faith,
to sing your praise with gratitude,
and to listen to your word with eagerness;
through Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

We may not be able to sing in the Church building at present but we can sing in our homes. I do encourage you to join with our musicians, Hilary and Lesley and singers Karen and Terry to sing:-

Lead Me To The Cross (How can I be free from sin)

How can I be free from sin?
Lead me to the cross of Jesus
From the guilt, the power, the pain?
Lead me to the cross of Jesus

There's no other way
No price that I could pay
Simply to the cross I cling
This is all I need
This is all I plead
That his blood was shed for me

How can I know peace within?
Lead me to the cross of Jesus
Sing a song of joy again!
Lead me to the cross of Jesus

Flowing from above
All-forgiving love
From the Father's heart to me!
What a gift of grace
His own righteousness
Clothing me in purity!

How can I live day by day?
Lead me to the cross of Jesus
Following his narrow way?
Lead me to the cross of Jesus

Bible reading:

Matthew 18 v 21 – 35. Read by Fran Goodwin.

A reflection from Veronica

Last week Penny helped us to think about reconciliation, this week we focus on forgiveness, as relationships depend on forgiveness and focussing on what brings us together rather than what drives us apart.

In our Bible reading Peter tries to establish just how much compassion and forgiveness he has let himself in for. He sets the bar quite high at 'seven times', but he also wants to know where the boundary is, the point beyond which he will not be required to go, so that he can remain in control of the generosity required of him. So, he is clear about what he needs to do!

Jesus answers with a parable to change Peter's viewpoint (and ours). Peter is thinking of himself as the one kindly doing the forgiving, but what if he were to stand in a different place? What if he changed his perspective? What if he saw forgiveness from a different point of view? What if, fundamentally, he is the one who receives lavish forgiveness?

The slave who owes 10,000 talents owes the equivalent today of zillions of pounds. There is no way the slave could ever pay off that debt (one commentator said it would be the equivalent of 200, 000 years of a slaves wages!)

The king has the right to recover funds from the slave's assets (including his family). Out of sympathy and compassion the king instead cancels the debt completely. This scene becomes the background to the moment when the slave encounters a fellow slave who owes him 100 denarii (a denarius was a labourer's pay for a day's work – so 100 days' pay, still lots of money but trivial in comparison to the above)

If the debt is genuine, the first slave has the legal right to exact payment. The important point here is the context. The second episode happens after the first one. But the slave sees no connection between the two, and feels no need to act differently in the light of having received such generous mercy himself. His fellow slaves cannot accept this. The king calls him 'wicked' and requires full payment of the original debt.

The parable is a powerful and robust reminder of where we stand when we are called upon to forgive someone else. We are not the master, deciding whether or not to release someone out of the goodness of our hearts. We are the feeble debtor who owed so much that we could not repay it in many lifetimes. And if anyone owes a debt to us, it is tiny in comparison. We are not asked whether we would like to choose to be generous, we are asked to pass on the generosity of God.

God's generosity and forgiveness is absurd (more than the master cancelling a zillion pound's worth of debt from a slave!) its more than we can imagine. whilst this is of course good news! It presents us with a

challenge- Not just to forgive someone from the goodness of our heart, but to forgive as generously as God!

First we must accept the generous gift of forgiveness that God has for each of us, whoever we are and whatever we have done, and whatever we have thought or said about God before, he is ready to offer his overwhelmingly generous gift of forgiveness and love to us, not just once but time and time again. Then we must share this with others, generously and selflessly.

As recipients of God's grace, we need to be channels of God's grace too, as we have been forgiven so we should forgive.

Compassionate, rescuing, forgiving God, never let us take for granted your loving, saving activity.

Never let us take for granted the fact that despite all the evil we do you still care for us, still reach out to forgive and restore us. So deal with us, we pray, that we may have short memories for any wrongs done to us and long memories for the sins you have forgiven, and may we be generous in forgiving others and channels of your grace. Amen.

In response we turn to our own confession

The word of God is living and active.

It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

All is open and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we give account.

We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Most merciful God,

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

In your mercy

forgive what we have been,

help us to amend what we are,

and direct what we shall be;

that we may do justly,

love mercy,

and walk humbly with you, our God.

Amen.

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.

Time to sing again as Judith, Lynda, Sue and Richard accompanied by
Hilary and Lesley bring us

Take my life and let it be

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,

Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee,

Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee,

Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose,

Take my will, and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart; it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne,

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,

Prayers of intercession Led by Chris Murray

Let us join together in prayer.

Blessed be God of the rivers of our lives. Blessed be God of the tides of our thoughts. Blessed be God of the wind of our motives. Bless these steps we are taking; you are walking with us. **Amen.**

Father, today we come before you asking for your forgiveness, remembering your words to forgive others as we would wish to be forgiven. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Lord, we thank you for your provision to us, for this beautiful place in which we are privileged to live. Help us to be good stewards of your creation, that you have blessed us with here on earth. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We remember before you all who are suffering in body, mind or spirit, especially those affected by the current situation. Calm our fears, give us patience and perseverance and hope for a better time to come. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We ask for your guidance over the coming weeks and months for a way forward for all the coming services that all church's face at this time. For the need to somehow do things differently then normal without losing the special feelings that surround us at these times of the seasons and for all the ministry teams as they work toward this, especially Veronica and our team here in Heacham.

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

God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit be shielding and saving us, as Three and as one, by our knees, by our backs, by our side's, each step of the stormy world. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Led by Karen Chipps

Closing prayers

Now that we have been put right with God through faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has brought us by faith into the grace of God.

We rejoice in the hope of sharing God's glory.

This hope does not deceive us:

God has poured his love into our hearts by the gift of his Spirit.

Eternal God,
our beginning and our end,
accompany us in this day's journey.
Dawn on our darkness,
open our eyes to praise you for your creation
and to see the work you set before us today.
Take us and use us
to bring to others the new life you give in Jesus Christ our Lord.

May God, who gives patience and encouragement,
give us a spirit of unity to live in harmony as we follow Jesus Christ,
so that with one voice
we may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:
and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be
among us and remain with us always.

Amen

We go into the world
to walk in God's light,
to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect God's glory.

Closing music

Adrian plays Sonata 2 Allegro Maestoso e Vivace by Felix Mendelssohn.

Church Open for private prayer

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

Please use this time for quiet reflective prayer. Thank you to our welcomers who allow this to take place.

HEACHAM PARISH CHURCH online service will be on YouTube from 8am on Sunday am
Watch out for the email link.

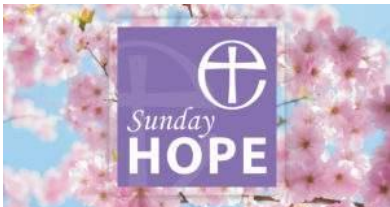
Morning Prayer continues via Zoom Monday-Friday. Contact Penny Taylor for the link heacham.church@gmail.com.

The Prayer Course- Peter Greig- Via Zoom

John Whitbread and Gordon Taylor's homegroup are hoping to start this course (8 weeks) via zoom. We meet on a Thursday evening but would be happy to run the course in the day for anyone who would find this easier. Please contact John 579326 or Gordon gordonsmithtaylor50@gmail.com if you are interested. If you would like to see what it is here is the link. www.prayercourse.org

Podcast: 'Sunday Hope'

The Diocese of Norwich has a weekly audio podcast called 'Sunday Hope'.



It is available on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Overcast](#), and more.

The podcast can also be listened to from any landline telephone: call **01603 537577** (*local rate*) to hear the latest edition.

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.