



## Heacham Parish Church

### **1<sup>st</sup> November 2020 Sunday Service – Heacham Parish Church**

*Shona plays My Jesus, My Saviour on the clarinet as we gather*

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

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

Gracious God,  
as we come to you today,  
we acknowledge our mixed emotions  
and our differing gifts and needs.  
May a desire to serve unite us.  
May the truth of the gospel encourage us.  
And may the example of your Son inspire us.  
We ask this in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

Prayers of confession:

**Forgive us, loving God:  
when we trumpet our good deeds,  
and show off to impress others;  
when we sacrifice integrity for popularity;  
when we seek attention more than we seek you.  
Give us a quiet confidence that has no need to boast,  
and that puts integrity before success,  
so that we may be people of depth and honesty,  
to your glory.  
Amen.**

The God of love brings us back to himself, forgives us our sins and assures us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Song : What a friend we have in Jesus** played and sung by Sue, Richard, Hilary, Shona, Colin and Rosie

What a friend we have in Jesus  
All our sins and griefs to bear  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer  
O what peace we often forfeit  
O what needless pain we bear  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer

Have we trials and temptations  
Is there trouble anywhere  
We should never be discouraged  
Take it to the Lord in prayer  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share  
Jesus knows our every weakness  
Take it to the Lord in prayer

Are we weak and heavy laden  
Cumbered with a load of care  
Precious Savior, still our refuge  
Take it to the Lord in prayer  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee  
Take it to the Lord in prayer  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee  
Thou wilt find a solace there

**Bible Reading: Matthew 23: 1-12** read by Barbara Jennings

## **A Reflection from Veronica Wilson**

It's a tough week for the preacher this week... 23: v 3 `...for they do not practise what they preach'!

Jesus in this part of Matthew's gospel was talking to the crowds and the disciples about the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, whose teaching was good, and should be listened to, but in their lives and in the expectations they laid on their listeners they did not do so well. Their deeds did not match their words. Jesus is challenging their false living, their love of status, position and privilege.

He contrasts those who love to be noticed for their 'acts of righteousness' with those who humbly and quietly serve... In Jesus' radical kingdom, it's the servants who will be exalted, the humble who will be lifted up. In many ways that sounds not too hard, but the reality is it can be difficult, not to blow our own trumpets, it's tough when what we do is not seemed to be noticed or appreciated.

Today's reading underlines the importance of not being hypocritical, making sure that what we do, matches what we say and what we believe... it's about integrity and being real, being true to ourselves and to God...living as Jesus did with a down to earth holiness.

So actually I don't think it's just a tough week for me, the preacher, it's a challenge for us all, to be people of faith, who live with integrity, whose faith shows in what we say and what we do, whose faith builds others up not adds burdens onto them (remember Jesus said 'my yoke is easy and my burden is light') whose faith does not judge but accepts and loves, as Jesus loves and serves. Whose faith is seen through how we live our lives.

We only need to look back to the preceding chapter of Matthew's gospel to be reminded of the greatest commandment, the basic tenet of the kingdom of God (which the Pharisees and teachers of the law were teaching) – 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Love your neighbour as yourself'.

Maybe as we seek to live lives of integrity this week, we could meditate on these words of Jesus and see what they lead us to say and do in the coming days-

A prayer to finish :

Lord, grant me:

courage to speak the truth when it is uncomfortable;

grace to live quietly when I would like to be noticed;

perseverance to do ordinary tasks well, rather than to seek glory in the spectacular;

confidence to entrust my strengths and weaknesses to you;

integrity to pray as I can, not as I think I ought to;

and the joy of knowing that

no praise, no privilege, no position

matter more than being surrounded

by your love and faithfulness every day.

Amen.

### **Prayers of Intercession** led by Sue Spencer

Almighty God, ruler of the ends of the earth, we pray for our Queen and thank you for the strong faith that she has with you and for the example she has shown us. We also pray for those to whom you have entrusted power and responsibility, we pray especially for those who are in government and for all members of Parliament. We ask Lord that you will grant them wisdom, patience, dedication, insight, open mindedness, and humility. We ask Lord that you will guide them with the decisions that they have to make at this difficult time with Covid-19.

We pray for the many people who have contracted the coronavirus in this country and around the world. Bring comfort to those grieving loved ones who have died and peace to those worried, fearful and uncertain as the virus spreads. We also pray for governments and authorities who are developing strategies to contain and deal with the virus and those in the health services who may be risking their own lives to care for sick patients.

### **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Lord, once more we have the opportunity to meet with you at your table for the simplest of meals yet the most wonderful banquet. Lord we know that your son Jesus Christ is here with us, welcoming us as his people, greeting us as his friends and offering us lasting nourishment, not just for

our bodies but for our souls as well. We thank you God for this last supper which your son instigated, we are reminded of how much you love us and of the sacrifice that your Son made so that we could worship you freely and thank you for all you have done and all you have given us, so help us in return to give our all to you, in the name of Christ.

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

Eternal God, we come to you on this day of All Saints as ordinary everyday people, nothing special about us and no particular merits to boast of, yet you have called us to be part of your family, you have called us to be your church and today you have called us to remember all who have gone ahead of us in the journey of faith. Merciful God give us the grace to follow in the footsteps of the saints, as they followed in the footsteps of your dear son. Keep alive the memory of those dear to ourselves whom you have called to yourself (Short silence). Grant that every remembrance --which turns our hearts from things seen, to things unseen may lead us always upwards to you until we come to eternal rest. We thank you Lord for the example of all the saints and as we go from here into the world helps us to follow in their footsteps with courage and hope determined like them, to do your work and live the Gospel of your son. Lastly, in the words of St Francis' prayer:

Make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy. May we not so much seek to be consoled as to console, not so much to be understood as to understand, not so much to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we awake to eternal life.

**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 Victoria Clarey de Sanchez from her home in Bolivia

**Song: Holy, Holy, Holy** sung and played by Hilary, Lesley, Karen, Terry, Colin, Richard and Lynda

Holy, holy, holy, holy,  
Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty;  
And we lift our hearts before You as a token of our love,  
Holy, holy, holy, holy.

Gracious Father, gracious Father,  
We're so blest to be Your children, gracious Father;  
And we lift our heads before You as a token of our love,  
Gracious Father, gracious Father.

Precious Jesus, precious Jesus,  
We're so glad that You've redeemed us, precious Jesus;  
And we lift our hands before You as a token of our love,  
Precious Jesus, precious Jesus.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,  
Come and fill our hearts anew, Holy Spirit;  
And we lift our voice before You as a token of our love,  
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.

Hallelujah, hallelujah,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah;  
And we lift our hearts before You as a token of our love,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah.

### Final Prayer

Look to the good of others,  
be great at giving encouragement,  
and bless as you are blessed.  
In Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

May the Lord bless you and keep you, may he make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, may he look kindly on you and give you peace. 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.*

*Shona Plays It is well with my soul as we finish*

## **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 Mon-Fri via Zoom.**

Please ask Veronica if you want to join, tel. 01485 570697

## **Thank you**

Thank you for all your good wishes and the lovely card, orchid and gift card which are much appreciated. I start at the Night Shelter on Tuesday Evening. I will see many of you in church or in the village. Penny Taylor.

## **Contact:**

**Rev. Veronica Wilson tel: 01485 570697**

**or email: [heacham.vicar@gmail.com](mailto:heacham.vicar@gmail.com)**

**Church Office email: [heacham.church@gmail.com](mailto:heacham.church@gmail.com)**

## **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.