



Heacham Parish Church



Sunday Service 10th January 2021 – The baptism of Christ

*Opening music – 'The Light of Christ' –
played on two recorders by Hilary and Lesley*

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

Silence is kept.

As God's people we have gathered:

let us worship him together.

God of our days and years, we set this time apart for you.
Form us in the likeness of Christ
so that our lives may glorify you.

Amen.

Be with us, Spirit of God;

nothing can separate us from your love.

Breathe on us, breath of God;

fill us with your saving power.

Speak in us, wisdom of God;

bring strength, healing, and peace.

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ.

Sing psalms, hymns, and sacred songs:

let us sing to God with thankful hearts.

Open our lips, Lord:

and we shall praise your name.

Hymn: I heard the voice of Jesus say come unto me and rest

sung & played by Karen, Terry, Hilary, and Lesley

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto Me, and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon My breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting-place,
And He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
The living water: thirsty one,
Stoop down, and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's Light;
Look unto Me, thy morn shall rise,
And all thy day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In Him my Star, my Sun;
And in that Light of life I'll walk
Till travelling days are done.

Prayers of penitence:

The sun of righteousness has dawned
with healing in his wings.
Let us come to the light of Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**God our Father,
long-suffering, full of grace and truth, you create us from**

nothing and give us life.

You give your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.

You do not turn your face from us, nor cast us aside.

We confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbour.

We have wounded your love and marred your image in us.

Restore us for the sake of your Son,

and bring us to heavenly joy,

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth,
strengthen us to do God's will
and give us the joy of His kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Bible reading: **Mark 1, v 4–11** read by Gloria Whitbread

A Reflection by John Whitbread

Mark is the only book in the Bible that announces itself as a 'gospel': "the good news about Jesus" (Mark 1:1).

There is no word in Mark about the birth, or youth, of Jesus. Mark starts right in with this "good news" of Jesus' baptism as the beginning of His ministry. It is the fulfilment of the "messenger" promised by the prophets Isaiah (40:3) and Malachi (3:1). A promise reiterated by John's own explanation of Jesus' baptism, that his baptism was with water, "but He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit" (Mark1:8).

Have you ever wondered why Jesus needed to be baptised? John preached a message to the people - of repentance for the forgiveness of sins - but Jesus did not have to be forgiven so what was this all about?

I think that there were three reasons for Jesus to be baptised:-

1. It was Jesus showing, not only to those present, but also to God of his complete dedication to following the will of God. For everyone who comes to be baptised, it is about his or her willingness to show the change of direction and to follow God. But for Jesus it was simply the way of showing his love for God the Father and that Jesus was going to follow God's chosen path through His life. His baptism was a public declaration of His commitment to the Father.

2. The second reason, I think, was that it was to announce the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry. Both John the Baptist, and also God the Father confirmed Jesus' calling, it was made public for all to see.

If you need to have confirmation of this look at Mark 9:7; here God says, "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!".

3. The final reason is that Jesus taught his followers to be baptised so here He was an example that we would do well to follow. It was, and still is, a public demonstration of your change of life to follow the way of Christ. If you go to Matt 28:19-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you".

And here, in Mark's gospel (Mark 1:11) we see the Father's declaration: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased".

I think this is the nugget that we would do well to apply to our own lives - that we should live so that the Father is pleased with us. For when God is pleased, nothing else matters. **Amen.**

Hymn: **O breath of life**

played & sung by Hilary, Lesley, Judith, Lynda, Colin, Rosie, Sue, and Richard.

O Breath of life, come sweeping through us,
Revive thy Church with life and power;
O Breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us,
And fit thy Church to meet this hour.

O Breath of love, come breathe within us,
Renewing thought and will and heart:
Come, Love of Christ, afresh to win us,
Revive thy Church in every part.

O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,
Till humbly we confess our need;
Then in thy tenderness remake us,
Revive, restore; for this we plead.

Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating
While harvest fields are vast and white?
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,
Equip thy Church to spread the light.

Prayers of Intercession led by Kika Habermann

We praise and thank You, Heavenly Father, that we may come to You at any time and in every situation.

We thank You for our Queen and Her Majesty's great devotion to her duties.

We ask Your wisdom and humility for all in authority over us; that they may use their power for the good of all citizens and to Your glory.

We thank You for the conclusion of the Brexit negotiations and pray, that with Your guidance, future trade talks will be concluded for the good of all parties involved. **Amen**

We thank You, heavenly Father, for the record short time that a number of vaccines have been manufactured to fight Covid-19 and ask Your wisdom to find the best ways of getting them to those who need them most urgently. **Amen**

There are many regions of the world where there are wars, natural disasters, famines, and floods; where there is hunger and starvation, disease and hopelessness. We thank You for all the brave and dedicated people who go to these places to help, comfort, and bring relief. We ask Your strength and protection for them.

We also pray for strength and protection for all Christians who take the light of the Gospel to the dark places of the world. **Amen**

We commit to You for Your blessings, Heavenly Father, those of our church family who are on Divine Service. Drs. Herbert and Rachel Karrach, the Goodman Family, Israel and Victoria de Sanchez, James Hawksworth at the Church Army Centre in King's Lynn, and Penny Taylor helping the needy in King's Lynn Night Shelter. **Amen**

We ask Your blessings, Heavenly Father, for our PCC as the members are seeking Your way forward during these times of restrictions to our normal church life. **Amen**

Please Lord, bless anyone in our church who is ill, recovering from illness, or in a difficult situation. In a *moment of silence* let us bring those to the Lord who are on our hearts.

We thank You, Lord, for Your healing. **Amen**

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

Collect for today:

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

We pray together The Lord's prayer, led by Lois Carrick

Closing prayers:

Let us give thanks to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.

Before the world was made, God chose us in Christ,
that we might be holy and blameless before him.

Let us praise God for the glory of his grace,
for the free gift he gave us in his dear Son.

To Father, Son and Holy Spirit
**give praise and dominion,
honour and might, for ever and ever.
Amen.**

May God the Father,
who led the wise men by the shining of a star
to find the Christ, the Light from Light,
lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.
Amen.

May God the Son,
who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your
lives and make glad your hearts.
Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit,
who came upon the beloved Son
at his baptism in the river Jordan,
pour out his gifts on you
who have come to the waters of new birth.
Amen.

May the Holy Trinity,
in whose name we were baptized, preserve us,
members of Christ, children of God,
inheritors of the kingdom of heaven,
saved by the waters,
and filled with the Spirit.
**Glory to God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Closing music – Hilary and Lesley play a seasonal medley on two recorders.

Church Contact:

Rev. Veronica Wilson tel. 01485 570697

or email: heacham.vicar@gmail.com

Church Office tel. 01485 572539 (answerphone)

or email: heacham.church@gmail.com

Notices

Church building closed

The church building will remain closed for next week, apart from for funerals and weddings (under tight restrictions). The PCC will review the closure at a meeting on Monday 18th January - when we hope to have a plan for re-opening, having had time to re-do all the risk assessments.

It goes against the grain to remain closed when we are legally allowed to open for both private prayer and public acts of worship. The current whole-country lockdown means that we should stay at home as much as possible. We need to stick to both the rules, and the spirit of the rules. Alongside this the rising rate of infections locally is very concerning, and the pressure on the QEH is immense with a huge increase in Covid-19 patients. The new strain of Covid-19 seems to be passed on much more easily too, so reducing our contact with other people is vital.

We have, as a church, been acting cautiously and carefully since March 2020; following the rules and ensuring that we care for our neighbours and each other. We will still continue to be, and do, church with daily prayer on Zoom, online worship, paper service copies, and community care and outreach.

(Non-internet folk please note below – new development re participation)

Also for the next two Sundays (10th and 17th January) we will, instead of an 'in church' service, have two 'ZOOM church services' at 10am -

Heacham Parish Church on Zoom! These will be what we would have done in church but via Zoom. You can access the service by computer, smartphone, or by (ordinary) telephone as a verbal only participant. The service will be followed by the opportunity to chat with each other afterwards; for those who wish to do so.

Heacham Parish Church on Zoom - Sunday 10th January

at 10am (access from 9.50am)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88284288324?pwd=K2UzeUpnciRDN1ozSUdJY25vWnVBZz09>

Meeting ID: 882 8428 8324 Passcode: 131974

Or by telephone: call 0203 901 7895

Meeting ID: 882 8428 8324 Passcode: 131974

The online and paper services will continue and, of course, we know that we can worship and pray anywhere at any time.

Morning Prayer will be available Monday to Friday, at 9am via Zoom. Different hosts this week; if you want to join please email Richard Chipps – chipps@hyford123.plus.com – who will invite you.

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 to help those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions.

For radio listeners – in case you have not found these -

Daily Service on BBC Radio 4 LW Monday to Friday at 9.45am-10am.

Sunday Service on BBC Radio 4 DAB/FM/LW at 8.10am.

Sunday programme on BBC Radio Norfolk from 6am.

The fireworks over London on New Year's Day spelled out Hope and Love - as we move forward into 2021 let us add the third element from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

