



Heacham Parish Church



Sunday 18th July 2021 – Trinity 7

Opening music - Adrian plays 'Air' by Samuel Wesley.

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

All And also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

All Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth; serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song. Know that the Lord is God; it is he that has made us and we are his; we are the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks and bless his name. For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting, and his faithfulness endures from generation to generation. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever. Amen

Prayers of confession

"If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us, but if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins."

All Almighty God, long suffering and of great goodness, I confess to you, I confess with my whole heart my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments, my wrong doing, thinking and speaking; the hurts I have done to others, and the good I have left undone.

O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you,

and raise me to newness of life through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

The Lord enrich us with his grace and nourish us with his blessing; the Lord defend us in trouble and keep us from all evil; the Lord accept our prayers and absolve us from our offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

Song: **Be still, for the presence of the Lord**

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the holy One, is here;
come bow before Him now
with reverence and fear:
in Him no sin is found
we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
with splendour He is crowned:
how awesome is the sight
our radiant king of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place:
He comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister His grace -
no work too hard for Him.
In faith receive from Him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

Marriage Banns

Bible Reading: Ephesians 1: 15-23 read by Lynne

A Reflection by Pip Lawrence

Let's pray,

Father we ask that you will speak to our hearts and minds as we think about these verses today. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Surprise, it's me again. Life is full of surprises isn't it, some we expect some we don't. For example, this week I was expecting to be surprised. If you were in church or heard me talk last week, you might remember that I said that people may not have verses from Chronicles as favoured verses. I knew as I was saying it that I would be reading Chronicles this week and in all probability The Lord would spring a verse on me. The verse, my friends, that spoke to me was in the midst of the genealogies. "He answered their prayers, because they trusted him". Also, I was reminded of the prayer of Jabez.

This morning prayer is high on the agenda too. Paul tells his church friends that he hasn't missed a day of praying for them all. He says, "I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers". Then we learn how Paul prays. I don't know about you, but I think Paul is top of the charts in the prayer department. He prays things like this, "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better". Wow, what a prayer to pray for anyone. Then my favourite part of his prayer and maybe yours too. "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe".

Paul goes on to explain the origins of that power which is totally mind blowing and brings us back to Christ where earlier in the chapter we were reminded of his blessings, the great plan of redemption, and of the cross. We read at the end of the reading today, "And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way".

There is so much in these verses, so many avenues to explore, and of course so little time. But we all have the mind of Christ so we will fill this time with thoughts that can glorify him.

I don't know where your focus is today, but as I prepared, the focus for me was on hope, enabling and filling. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to be hopeful. There are no hopeless places in Christ. Look in any concordance and you will find verses of hope for any and every situation. Some are more useful than others, because let's face it most of us haven't got the patience of Job so we are quite unlikely to say what he said, "though he slay me, yet will I hope in him". We will probably be much more comfortable with verses like proverbs 23:18 "There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off."

We are so privileged to serve a God who gives us hope now, and also for the future. No matter what unfolds in our life we have that promise in Christ. I don't know what your current hope is, I don't know what situations everyone is facing, but I do know, even if you think it is hopeless, it is not. Grab hold of the hope you have in Christ this morning, don't let go. Remember this, Christ will enable you.

We are all enabled by the greatest helper ever. The comforter, dwelling in the Holy Spirit will lift us to heavenly places even in the storms of life. If we open our eyes to Christ, if we fix our

eyes on him, guided by the Holy Spirit, we will be more than conquerors and over-comers in Christ. However, let's be honest, sometimes life gives us such a kick we are unable to help ourselves. This is where, as a church, we move in with prayer, help, comfort, concern, and steadfast faith. We help our brothers and sisters in their time of need, and we can also expect to be helped in ours.

We can do this because we can all be filled by Christ. Paul says in Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you all with joy and peace, so that you may overflow with hope, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let's pray this week that every one of us will be filled with hope, filled with Christ, and filled with his spirit. Amen.

Solo

Affirmation of faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

A// I believe in God the father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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, he will come 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 life everlasting.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession, led by Lynda

Let us pray.

Thank you, Lord that you are ever willing to hear our prayers, and as our heavenly Father you long that we bring you what is in our hearts and minds. We can do nothing on our own, but we claim your promise that we can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens us.

At the start of this week with changes to the way we can live our lives again, we thank you for the freedoms this may bring, but we know there will be others who are worried about what may happen next with the coronavirus. Lord give us wisdom to make safe decisions, give us grace that we may be considerate in how we act, and fill us with your Holy Spirit that we may be compassionate and understanding of others' needs, and able to put these before our own.

In your mercy – *Hear our prayer.*

Thank you, Lord, for the children and young people of our community. The past months have not been easy for many, and our hearts go out to the those who have missed out on so many normal childhood experiences, and parents, especially new ones, who have not had the same contacts with others and support in raising and caring for their children.

We pray for hope and peace for those young people who are struggling with anxiety and depression, and their family and friends who are trying to help and support them through these difficult times. Help us all to look to you Lord for your ever-present help in times of trouble.

In your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

We thank you Lord for teachers and all school staff and the many others who contribute to the development and education for our children. We think particularly of our local schools in the

village and surrounding areas, may all the staff be refreshed and replenished over this summer break.

We think too of the additional health, social and care services that seek to help and support children and their families. These services are greatly under strain with the increased distress being experienced by so many.

We pray for strength and wisdom for all those working with children and young people, help us as a church to be able to contribute our part in meeting these needs especially as we review and consider the way forward with our own church activities for children and young people and their families.

In your mercy. *Hear our prayer.*

We pray too for the wider Christian church, thinking of those who would normally be running and leading, beach missions, holidays, retreats, and other Christian activities and events. With so many more people staying in the UK for holidays, may there be more opportunities this year to share the really good news of true freedom to be found in Christ Jesus.

In your mercy. *Hear our prayer.*

Lord Jesus, we lift up to you the children in our world today facing abuse, poverty, homelessness, famine, disease, and wars. Lord we think of those refugees and asylum seekers, especially those who have travelled alone leaving behind or having lost family. Those who have fled war torn countries, places where hope is in short supply along with food and medical care. Lord bless those who are working to bring peace and stability to nations but bless in abundance those who extend the hand of welcome to those in need. May we be gracious and willing to share our peace and security with those who have so little.

In your mercy. *Hear our prayer.*

Lord we bring before you those who need your healing touch today. For those who have been hurt by the unkind words and taunts of others. Those who are lonely and isolated. For those in pain and those struggling with reduced mobility or increasing infirmity. For those living with long term illness and disease. In a moment of quiet we name those whom we know, and in faith we reach out those we do not know by name but where we see the needs.

In your mercy. *Hear our prayer.*

Thank you that we are your children, adopted into your family by love through Christ's sacrifice on the cross. We are able to know and receive forgiveness, mercy, and grace. Help us all to be God's children who reflect our Father's nature and His will, in our individual and corporate lives together.

In your mercy. *Hear our prayer.*

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

Concluding with the Lord's Prayer

Song: Thank You for saving me

Thank You for saving me,
what can I say?
You are my everything,
I will sing Your praise.
You shed Your blood for me,
What can I say?
You took my sin and shame,
a sinner called by name.

*Great is the Lord, great is the Lord,
For we know Your truth has set us free,
You've set Your hope in me.*

Mercy and grace are mine,
forgiven is my sin.
Jesus, my only hope,
the Saviour of the world.
"Great is the Lord", we cry,
"God let Your kingdom come!"
Your word has let me see,
thank You for saving me.

Great is the Lord.....

Thank You for saving me,
what can I say?

Closing Prayer

Together we say:

Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of your holy word. May it be a lantern to our feet, a light to our paths, and a strength to our lives. Take us and use us to love and serve in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

The God of all grace who called us to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen, and settle us in the faith. And the blessing of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit remain with us and those we love now and always. **Amen.**

Closing music – Adrian plays 'Gavotte' by Samuel Wesley

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