



Heacham Parish Church

Sunday 1st August 2021 – Trinity 9

Opening music - Adrian plays 'J S Bach Sinfonia to Cantata 29'

This is our Service of Worship for 9th Sunday after Trinity.
Although we join this at various times, from various places and in various ways we come together as one body, the Church of Jesus Christ.

We stand before the throne of God
with countless crowds
from every nation and race, tribe and language.
**Blessing and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour, power and might
be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Almighty God,
your Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence.
Give us new hearts and constant wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Lord, speak to us
that we may hear your word.
Move among us
that we may behold your glory.
Receive our prayers
that we may learn to trust you.
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.

Prayers of penitence

Jesus saw the city and wept over it,
because it did not recognise the time of God's coming.
We confess our part in the self-centredness,
blindness and sin of the life of our village.

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

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.

Bible reading – Ephesians 2: 11–12 read by Sue

A reflection - on these verses by Peter

Plastic interlocking blocks called Lego began to be made in the late 1940's. I understand that the largest Lego structure ever built is a version of Tower Bridge in London. This was created to promote the new Land Rover. It stands over 40ft tall and is made up of almost six million blocks.

In verses 19 -22 of our reading Paul uses the imagery of a building to refer to the Christian community. "Church: it's a people thing", to adapt a familiar slogan. But the point being made here is that the people of God are not simply a group of isolated individuals but, like Lego blocks, designed to fit together, to be the corporate body of Christ here on earth. We are "being built together" (verse 22). We could say, "Church: it's a building thing", but that would be to use metaphorical language which is what is happening not only here but also in 1 Peter 2: 4-8 where believers are referred to as "living stones" being built into a "spiritual house". In both passages Old Testament temple imagery is being drawn on to emphasise the fact that throughout history every Christian believer is part of a community of faith. Christ is referred to as the "cornerstone" in Ephesians 2 – 20 and 1 Peter 2:6. The cornerstone is the most significant stone in any building. It determines its design and orientation. In 1 Corinthians 3:16 Paul tells his hearers: "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?" and in 2 Corinthians 6:12 he says, "We are the temple of the living God".

The Old Testament Temple was built to provide a place of meeting, as was the tabernacle that was carried about in the wilderness. Now God's Temple is His church, the community of believers in every place, in whom the Holy Spirit dwells, and all of us are essential building blocks. We are "joined together", we are told in verse 21, in the building which "rises to become a holy temple in the Lord". The emphasis here is of a building

under construction which gives us the sense of the continuous growth of the Church.

“Church: it’s a people thing”. The Greek word for church in the New Testament is “ekklesia” which literally means “those who are called out”. From what are we called out? 1 Peter 2:9 tells us we have been “called out of darkness into his wonderful light”. As Christians we are part of a supportive and encouraging community. We are not meant to live in isolation as a Christian. We need support and encouragement as we live out our faith, particularly as we encounter a society where many are indifferent and in some cases hostile to our beliefs. We are called out in order to share the good news of God’s grace with others. C S Lewis once said that “the one really adequate instrument for learning about God is the Christian community”. That could also be said of our calling, as expressed in the Book of Common Prayer Baptism service, “not to be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, and to manfully fight under his banner, against sin, the world, and the devil; and to continue Christ’s faithful soldier and servant unto (your) life’s end”.

Affirmation of faith

We say together in faith

**Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father,
who created all things:

**For by his will they were created
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,
who was slain:

**For with his blood,
he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

**The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
Even so come, Lord Jesus!
Amen.**

Song: **The Church's one foundation**

Played and sung by Hilary & Lesley

The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ our Lord:
she is His new creation
by water and the word;
from heaven He came and sought her
to be His holy bride;
with His own blood He bought her,
and for her life He died.

Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth,
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder
men see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder
by heresies distressed;
yet saints their watch are keeping,
their cry goes up: 'How long?'
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three-in-one,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with Thee.

Prayers of Intercession led by Veronica

Almighty God, our loving heavenly Father, we thank you that we can bring our prayers to you; not only our needs, but also to give you our praise and thanks.

We offer our humble and grateful thanks for your blessing on our tower restoration project; that the work is being completed successfully and the costs are being met. We thank you Lord,

for the privilege of being able to worship you in this beautiful and historic building. We praise you for the skills of the tradesmen involved. We thank you for touching the hearts of everyone who has contributed towards the appeal, with both donations and prayers; and we praise you for bringing here Liz and Keith who have spent many hours co-ordinating all the work and people involved.

We pray Lord that we will be worthy of all your goodness to us and that we will continue to serve you with all that we are. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We praise you Father for this beautiful area in which we live, and we pray for all the holidaymakers and visitors who come to share it with us during the summer. We pray for their travelling mercies, for kind weather and for their rest, safety, and enjoyment. We pray for all the local businesses who are struggling after lockdown, that they will have a good season. We pray also Lord for the emergency services associated with the seaside; for lifeguards, for lifeboat crews, the coastguard and air-sea rescue.

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

Heavenly Father, at this mid-point in the year we pray for the work of our tithe charities; for Nelson's Journey who have been visiting schools to make their services more widely known; for the King's Lynn Night Shelter preparing for this winter, and we pray they will be able to offer hospitality to more guests this year without such severe restrictions; for the Goodman family, for Andrew trying hard to learn Burmese in order to preach and for the situation in Myanmar with families having to escape to the jungle to hide from the military; for Tansen hospital, busy treating Covid patients during their second wave and struggling to produce enough oxygen for all the hospital's needs; for Transaid, using bicycle ambulances to deliver patients with

Covid and severe malaria to hospital; and for CAP working to help people manage their debt.

We thank you for all that these charities provide and the dedication of their staff. We pray that they will get all the resources they need, and we thank you Father also for the response of companies and corporations donating very large sums to make up the shortfall in overseas aid brought about by recent government decisions.

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

We pray Father for our police force as they face daily abuse and antagonism, and for all the medical services who are under extreme pressure at the present time, that you will give them all the strength and energy they need.

We pray Lord that the Covid infection rate will continue to fall and that people will show common sense and consideration for others as we mix more freely.

We thank you that the government has made another 9 million vaccines available to poorer countries through COVAX. We thank you Father for your guidance as we prepare to return gently to a more 'normal' type of church service following restrictions and we ask for your patience as matters progress over the coming weeks.

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

Loving Lord, we pray for all those we know in need of your healing and loving touch. We pray especially for Veronica, Simon, and Kaitlyn that you will give them your strength and peace and they will know your love and comfort in the weeks ahead.

In a moment of silence, we bring our friends and loved ones before you now.....

And we thank you Lord for answered prayer, for those who have received healing and restored health.

And we pray for ourselves; may we be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer.

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

The Lord's prayer

Collect for today

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
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.

Amen.

Closing prayers

See what love the Father has given us,
that we should be called the children of God.
You are my sons and daughters,
this day I have begotten you.
See what love the Father has given us.

As many as received him,
to them he gave power to become the children of God.

See what love the Father has given us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

**See what love the Father has given us,
that we should be called the children of God.**

Draw your Church together, O God,
into one great company of disciples,
together following our Lord Jesus Christ
into every walk of life,
together serving him in his mission to the world,
and together witnessing to his love
on every continent and island.

**God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

To him who is able to keep us from falling
and to present us without blemish
before the presence of his glory with rejoicing,
to the only God, our Saviour through Jesus Christ our Lord,
be glory, majesty, dominion and authority,
before all time and now and for ever.

Amen.

*Closing music – Adrian plays 'Allegro from Suite in D' arranged
by John Stanley*

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