



Heacham Parish Church



Sunday 22nd August 2021 – Trinity 12

Opening music – Adrian plays Pastorale ('To a wild rose') by Edward MacDowell

Welcome to Heacham Parish Church on-line. This is our Service of Worship for 12th 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.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

Let us rejoice and shout for joy, giving God the glory.

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

as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever.

Amen.

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.

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: God forgave my sin

Played and sung by Rosie & Colin

God forgave my sin in Jesus' name;
I've been born again in Jesus' name,
and in Jesus' name I come to you
to share His love as He told me to.

He Said:

*'Freely, freely you have received,
Freely, freely give;
Go in My name and because you believe,
Others will know that I live.'*

All power is given in Jesus' name
In earth and heaven in Jesus' name;
and in Jesus' name I come to you
to share His power as He told me to.

He said

Prayers of penitence

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love
with all the saints in earth and heaven.
Knowing our unworthiness and sin,
let us ask from him both mercy and forgiveness.

God our Father, we are sorry
for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly,
and acted ungratefully.
Hear our prayer, and in your mercy: **forgive us and help us.**
We enjoy the fruits of the harvest,
but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.
Father, in your mercy: **forgive us and help us.**

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied,
but ignore the cry of the hungry.
Father, in your mercy: **forgive us and help us.**

We are thoughtless,
and do not care enough for the world you have made.
Father, in your mercy: **forgive us and help us.**

We store up goods for ourselves alone,
as if there were no God and no heaven.
Father, in your mercy: **forgive us and help us.**

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive us our sins
and make us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Bible reading – Ephesians Ch 4: 1–16 read by Kika

A reflection – on these verses by Peter

Here's a little story about a rural village in an area inhabited by parrots. One day a falcon landed on a windowsill. The owner of the house caught it. The villagers had never seen a bird like this. They decided to trim back its feathers, cut its talons, and file down its beak. The aim was to make it like the birds with which they were familiar. They wanted to turn the falcon into a parrot. But they soon realised it couldn't be done.

All of us are called to be similar to each other as Christian believers. We are to exercise humility, gentleness, patience, and love, as we grow together in maturity (verse 2). We are also to "make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace" (verse 3). This is vitally important in any Christian fellowship. We cannot create unity: this has

already been brought about by the reconciling work of Christ on the cross, which we read about in Ephesians 2:14-22, but we have the responsibility to maintain it by exercising the virtues mentioned earlier in verse 2 of today's passage. It is sadly the case that it can easily be damaged or destroyed.

However, as we live out our faith it is important that we affirm and celebrate our differences. Our passage reminds us that we have each been given unique gifts and abilities that are to be used in God's service.

In the first part of Ephesians 4 we are given a picture of Christ's ascension, and in verse 7 Paul quotes from Psalm 68 to illustrate what this means for his church. The image is of a triumphant warrior elevated to his throne as he returns with hosts of prisoners. He receives gifts from his conquered people and then offers gifts to his followers. Paul applies this image to refer to the ascension. He tells us that after Christ's ascension and his conquering of sin and death, he gave the gift of his Holy Spirit to his followers and also distributed various ministry gifts which are essential for the growth and health of the church. We find a mention of five of these ministry gifts in verse 11: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. However, there are other lists of gifts in 1 Corinthians chapter 12 and Romans chapter 12 which indicate the wide variety of these gifts which the Holy Spirit makes available to the church in every age. Those who exercise accredited ministry in a church are responsible for preparing "God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.." (verse 12).

Ministry is the function of all God's people and all of us are called to share in his mission to the world. Not many of us are able to exercise leadership, but we are all called to minister with the gift or gifts that we have been given, reflecting the variety of God's creation. Falcons can't be turned into Parrots,

for “we have different gifts according to the grace given us” (Romans 12:6). Every Christian has at least one gift and many Christians have more than one.

God’s gifts have been given so that each of us may be effective in our service as his disciples. It is our responsibility to ensure we use them as well as we can, for the extension of his kingdom and the glory of his name.

Affirmation of faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

Song: Christ is made the sure foundation.

Played and sung by Hilary and Lesley

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and corner-stone
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the Church in one;
holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

All within that holy city
Dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation
sing, in perfect harmony;
God the One-in-Three adoring
in glad hymns eternally.

We are living stones invoke you:
Come among us, Lord, today!
with Your gracious loving-kindness
hear Your children as we pray;
and the fulness of Your blessing
in our fellowship display.

Here entrust to all Your servants
what we long from You to gain –
that on earth and in the heavens
we one people shall remain,
till united in Your glory
evermore with You we reign.

Praise and honour to the Father,
praise and honour to the Son,
praise and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One:
one in power and one in glory
while eternal ages run.

Prayers of Intercession – led by Sue Bird

Our loving heavenly Father may there be love in our hearts and power in our thoughts as we pray to you now. We know that you are here with us listening to what is said and unsaid, and we ask humbly for your will to be done.

Lord in your Mercy. Hear our prayer.

Father God, we ask for the love it takes to bequeath to the children of the world to come, more than the failures of our own making. Give us the heart to care for the suffering of the children in Afghanistan and Iraq, Palestine and Israel, Syria and Ukraine and many other places in our world wracked by war, disease, and starvation. We give thanks for those who work alongside the helpless and the forgotten, and we ask that you protect and aid their efforts, that they may feel your guiding presence when things get tough.

Lord in your Mercy. Hear our prayer.

Grant to our Queen and her Government, to members of Parliament and all in positions of responsibility, the guidance of your spirit, as well as the will it takes to make the right decisions for the good of us all. May they never lead the nation in the wrong direction through love of power and position.

Lord in your Mercy. Hear our prayer.

We pray for this community, for its people in their daily life and work. We give thanks for the holiday season and the many visitors that enjoy their time here, encourage us all to be welcoming especially to those who visit our church. We pray for the families, for the young and the elderly and for all who live alone. Help us not to live our lives so fast that we forget the slow and the needy.

Lord in your Mercy. Hear our prayer.

Let us take a moment to bring before God those known to us who need his healing touch today. Lord be a loving presence to all who suffer in mind and body, that they may feel the reality that you are the light of the world for every season, which can never be overcome by darkness, and shines forever for all people. However, long our lives, we can never outrun your love. However far our journey, we are never beyond your loving care. For you are the journey and the journey's end. Watch, dear Lord with those whose day has begun with the sadness of bereavement. Comfort and sustain them and in the stillness may they know your presence.

Lord in your Mercy. Hear our prayer.

Living Lord, your word has called us, summoned us to live by grace. Make us one in hope and vision as we are gathered in this place. Take our searching, take our praising, take the silence of our prayer offered up in joyful worship springing from the love we share.

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

The Lord's prayer

Collect for today

God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Closing prayers

O Lord, open my lips

and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

When we were still helpless

Christ died for the ungodly.

The proof of God's amazing love is this:

while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have died with Christ,

we believe that we will also live with him.

For we know that Christ has been raised from death:

he will never die again.

We have been buried with him by baptism into death,

so that we might walk with him in newness of life.

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.

Glory to God,

whose power, at work among us,

can do infinitely more

than all we can ask or conceive;

to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

Closing music – *Adrian plays Gaudeamus ('Let us rejoice') by Sidney S Campbell*

Church Contact:

Church Office tel. 01485 572539 (answerphone)

Or email: heacham.church@gmail.com