

Morning Service Sunday 23rd August from Cudham and Downe

Good morning, thank you for joining in this online service from the Parishes of Cudham and Downe. I'm Rev John Musson, Vicar. All the words you will need for this service will appear on the screen. Feel free to join in with the hymns and to say the words in **bold**. In our Bible reading today we will hear Jesus challenge us to say who we think he is and what that might mean for the way we live.

When Jesus asked, Simon Peter answered:
'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'
Help us Lord God to make the same bold answer,
and we come together to worship
Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of the living God.
Come, with purpose,
into the presence of the living God.
Come to worship, and to be amazed,
to discover and learn new things.
Come, knowing that God welcomes us all with open arms.

Here's an opening prayer:

**Lord, do we really believe that we are in the presence of the Son of the Living God?
Still our hearts now,
so that we may truly appreciate who you are.
As we hear these words of power,
we bow down before you and praise you. Amen.**

Our opening hymn is Lord, thy word abideth

- 1 Lord, thy word abideth,
and our footsteps guideth;
who its truth believeth
light and joy receiveth.
- 2 When our foes are near us,
then thy word doth cheer us,
word of consolation,
message of salvation.
- 3 When the storms are o'er us,
and dark clouds before us,
then its light directeth,
and our way protecteth.
- 4 Who can tell the pleasure,
who recount the treasure,
by thy word imparted
to the simple-hearted?
- 5 Word of mercy, giving
succour to the living;
word of life, supplying
comfort to the dying.

6 O that we discerning
its most holy learning,
Lord, may love and fear thee,
evermore be near thee.

We now spend time saying sorry to God:-

Lord, thank you that you are always ready to forgive me
when I trust you enough to confess my sins to you,
even when I feel I don't deserve it.

Be merciful to me, O God.

Forgive me for the times when
just because someone else's story is different from mine
I don't always want to believe it.

Forgive me for the times I only live my story,
not seeing the bigger picture.

Be merciful to me, O God.

Forgive me for the times
I see you as less than the Son of God,
and my whole outlook on life
needs a good dose of your love and understanding.

Be merciful to me, O God. Amen.

May the God of love bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Our bible reading is read by Karen and comes from Matthew 16:13-20, then there's a craft activity from Denise after which we welcome our guest preacher, Rt Rev. Wallace Benn, Vice president of Church Society.

Matthew 16:13-20

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" 14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Sermon - Rt Rev Wallace Benn...

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our prayers of intercession today are led by Zac:-

We trust you, Lord, to answer our prayers. Father God:
Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory.

We pray for people who struggle with their faith:
through self-doubt,
through difficult circumstances,
through bad things happening,
through being led astray,
by wanting fame and fortune. Father God:
Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory.

We pray for people who feel in the dark,
locked in a situation where they can find no answer,
Those who are ill or bereaved
that they might come to understand
that you are the key to everything they need. Father God:
Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory.

We pray for ourselves:
when we are in difficult situations,
when we try to unlock doors that aren't ours to unlock,
when we don't focus on the kingdom,
when we don't share our story. Father God:
Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory.

Jesus taught us to call God our Father, so in faith and trust we pray:
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Our closing hymn is How shall I sing that majesty (MP3)

1 How shall I sing that Majesty
 which angels do admire?
 Let dust in dust and silence lie;
 sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.
 Thousands of thousands stand around
 thy throne, O God most high;
 ten thousand times ten thousand sound
 thy praise; but who am I?

2 Thy brightness unto them appears,
whilst I thy footsteps trace;
a sound of God comes to my ears;
but they behold thy face:
they sing because thou art their sun:
Lord, send a beam on me;
for where heaven is but once begun,
there alleluias be.

3 How great a being Lord, is thine,
which doth all beings keep!
Thy knowledge is the only line
to sound so vast a deep:
thou art a sea without a shore,
a sun without a sphere;
thy time is now and evermore,
thy place is everywhere.

Thank you for watching this service from Cudham and Downe. Next week, Sunday 30th the service will be livestreamed from The Vicarage on the cudham and downe church facebook page and will also be available on our youtube channel.

A final prayer, using the acrostic 'trust' and then a closing blessing:-

**Through our words and actions, make us
Ready to take every opportunity
Under your protection and guidance.
Send us out to share your story
The good news for all people. Amen.**

May the blessing of God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Be with you this week and always.

Amen