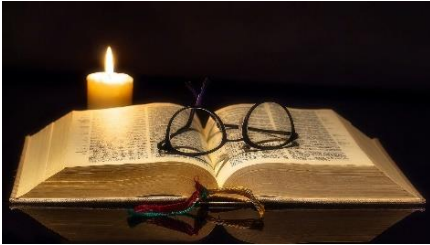


25th July 2021

The paper-version Service



To Begin: Find a Bible and a comfortable place. If safe, light a candle and read prayerfully through the service. If you have access to worship music, choose a song and listen to it as you begin or read, or even sing, the song from this Sunday's Service set out below.

Opening Prayer: Almighty God our heavenly Father, thank you that you speak into the chaos, 'Let there be light.' and there is light. Thank you, Jesus, that you come as the light of the world among us, and that this light is the light and life of all humankind. Into our chaos and darkness speak today and bring your life, hope healing and forgiveness – we ask this for our whole world, and for ourselves. And as you shine on us, so may we shine, revealing your glory to our needy world.
Amen.

Song:

Our Father everlasting
The all-creating One
God Almighty
Through your Holy Spirit
Conceiving Christ the Son
Jesus our Saviour

*I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus*

Our Judge and our Defender
Suffered and crucified
Forgiveness is in You
Descended into darkness

You rose in glorious light
Forever seated high

I believe in God...

Bridge:

I believe in You
I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord (rpt)

I believe in God...

*I believe in life eternal
I believe in the virgin birth
I believe in the saints' communion
And in Your Holy Church
I believe in the resurrection
When Jesus comes again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus*

I believe in God...

Read: John 8:12-30

God is here. *A summary of the talk given by Val Lucas.*

Summer holidays have begun, and everyone likes the sunshine and light summer evenings. We use light for lots of our celebrations, illuminations, candles, fireworks!

In this reading Jesus was in the temple for the feast of the tabernacle in the place where the lamps were lit to remind people of the pillar of fire that led them through the wilderness. It was here Jesus told the Pharisees I am the light of the world.



They were angry, Jesus continued, explaining he had seen the heavenly things he was speaking about. God his father had sent him to reveal such things. In Jewish law if two people agree about something their witness is accepted as fact. Jesus tells the Pharisees in words they can understand, I am one witness and my father who sent me is the other.

The Pharisees mocked him over his father as they knew his earthly father. To question a man's paternity was

regarded as a slur. Jesus was not provoked and said if you knew me, you would know my father also.

Jesus warned the Pharisees what would happen if they didn't believe, they would not follow him into heaven. He also challenged their behaviour.

We can learn two things from this reading. Firstly, we are to believe in Jesus and allow his light to shine through our lives exposing those things that are not of Christ. We will then find freedom, joy and a peace that surpasses all understanding.

Secondly Jesus was in the constant presence and light of his father. Our challenge is to immerse ourselves fully into this relationship. Do we trust completely or allow fear and darkness to creep in? Darkness comes in many forms, ill health, financial difficulties, relationship problems, etc.



However, one small birthday candle illuminates the faces of those gathered around a cake. Even a small amount of belief/faith will light up your world and give you hope. Jesus will never allow you to walk in darkness. Jesus is the light of the world. Have a good summer.



Prayers: *I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)*

- Pray for this day, and the coming week.
- Pray for justice, mercy, peace, and hope.
- Pray for individuals, for neighbours, for family and friends.
- Pray for the Church.

Collect: 8th after Trinity: Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



The Lord's Prayer: 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.**

Blessing to be declared over yourselves, COGS, the communities around us and our whole nation. 'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.' (Numbers 6:24-26 NIV).



We are now holding services in the building on Sundays at 8am and 9.30am. Further information is on our website or by ringing our vicar, Howard, 01420 563344.

If you know of others who would like to receive this, or you would rather not receive it; or if you find yourself isolated and not able to get neighbours, friends, or family to help, then ring Howard.

