



Heacham Parish Church

## **27<sup>th</sup> September 2020 Sunday Service Online**

*Shona play her clarinet as we gather*

Grace mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you **and also with you**

As we gather in our homes, together yet apart, we meet in the presence of God

God who called the world into being,  
who calls us to follow Christ;  
close our minds to distractions,  
open our ears to hear your call,  
open our hearts to receive your love,  
and open our eyes  
to the needs of our community.

**Amen.**

### **Prayers of confession:**

Merciful God, forgive us:  
for times when we have denied your authority,  
and gone our own way;  
for times when we have tried to be someone we are not,  
and hidden your image within us;  
for times when we have not been true to you,  
or to the gospel values you have entrusted to us.  
Merciful God, forgive us, renew us, restore us,  
that we may be what you have made us,  
go where you will guide us,  
and do as you would have us do.  
In the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

*(This week the choir sings the 2 songs they sang at Mary Sanders' thanksgiving service in church on 7<sup>th</sup> September)*

**Song : O let the Son of God enfold you** played by Adrian and sung by the choir, Sue, Penny, June, Judith, Val, Jean and Janet.

**O let the Son of God enfold you  
With His Spirit and His love  
Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul  
O let Him have the things that hold you  
And His Spirit like a dove  
Will descend upon your life and make you whole**

**Jesus, O Jesus  
Come and fill Your lambs  
Jesus, O Jesus  
Come and fill Your lambs**

**O come and sing this song with gladness  
As your hearts are filled with joy  
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name  
O give Him all your tears and sadness  
Give Him all your years of pain  
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name**

**Bible Reading:** Matthew 21: 22-32 read by Susie Carlisle

### **A Reflection from Pip Lawrence**

Let's pray,

Loving Heavenly Father help us, as we look at your word, to draw closer to you. For we ask in Jesus name. Amen

We are living in shifting times aren't we? Not only do we have to accustom ourselves to the changing restrictions of living with COVID 19, we also live in the age of post-truth. In our post-modern world everything

is subject to question. Nothing is accepted, or it is maybe considered as "alternative facts".

Actually it is nothing new. Today's reading shows us that it is human nature to question the authority of anything that we personally take exception to. In the reading we have the chief priests and the elders questioning Jesus. They have seen how he has entered Jerusalem, crowds cheering, waving palm branches, a rapturous reception. Then he has entered the temple and upset more than a few apple carts. Jesus was on their turf, they were feeling threatened. They needed to protect their patch, so they question his authority. " By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority? " They claimed that they wanted to know why Jesus was doing these things and also who gave him permission to do them. In reality they were not actually interested. All they wanted was for him to go away and stop rocking the proverbial boat. The answer Jesus gives them reveals their motive. They are duplicitous, there is no honesty in their approach. All they want to do is keep things the same as they are. They claim to be God's people, but they were not able or willing to see that the Lord had turned up, they liked things the way they were.

The parable emphasises, in part, the feelings expressed by the questioners. The first son says "no" to the initial request to work in the vineyard, but later changes his mind and goes to work. The second son makes a show of responding but then does nothing. Let's face it, we have all no doubt been like that at one time or another.

So what can we learn from all these human traits this morning, or whenever we are engaging with this service? There is much that we can consider, that relates to how we respond to Jesus in our own lives. So we will briefly look at three things, belief, honesty and authority.

Belief is a cornerstone of our faith. We have to believe in Jesus in order to begin a relationship with Him. Unlike the chief priests and elders we really need to believe and know that Jesus is the son of God, saviour, redeemer, alpha and omega. Belief gives rise to love, enabling us to recognise that He loved us first. As John says " this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His son as an atoning sacrifice."

If our belief and love is languishing in the doldrums, we will be unproductive and seriously lack joy. So periodically we are well served if we take time to check the current state of our love and belief.

We can do this in the certainty of the lord's care, because love gives rise to honesty. The first son very honestly says "no", exercising his free will, but also exercises that free will to change his mind. Jesus commends the first son.

We know that security in being loved for who we are, at a human level, allows for honesty in relationships. This is also true of our relationship with Jesus. It can only really grow, mature and blossom if we are honest with Jesus and allow him to work in our lives, knowing that He loves us, even though, as the word says, He knows what is in a man.

How honest are we with Jesus, with ourselves, and with others? I pray that all of us are all rooted in an honest, loving relationship with Jesus, and with one another.

If we are, we will have no problem in accepting Jesus authority in our lives. Unlike the chief priests, elders and the second son, we will be able to surrender, knowing He is God and also knows best. We can then be completely secure in the knowledge that, as it says in John " if you hold to my teachings, you really are my disciples, then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free". Which is all part of the wonderful paradox of surrender to Jesus Christ.

So as we walk with The Lord this week, with His gracious, helpful, guiding Holy Spirit enabling us to seek Him in belief, honesty and accepting His authority we will be able to face the current times with peace, strength and even joy. Let's close by taking space to ask The Lord to strengthen our faith and our actions born of faith. Amen.

## Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

**A// 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.**

**Prayers of intercession** led by John Whitbread

O Almighty God, whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist:  
give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain and the possessive love of riches  
that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

For all who are affected by coronavirus, through illness or isolation or anxiety, that they may find relief and recovery:  
For those who are guiding our nation at this time, and shaping national policies, that they may make wise decisions:  
For doctors, nurses and medical researchers, that through their skill and insights many will be restored to health:  
For the vulnerable and the fearful, for the gravely ill and the dying, that they may know your comfort and peace:  
We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God.  
Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

God of compassion and hope, we pray for the dead and dying and those who mourn; wherever souls are approaching your eternal kingdom, wherever loved ones grieve, we ask for your mercy and comfort.  
Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

God of our village and our nation, thank you for those men and women who give themselves to our spiritual, political and civic life and we add in Veronica and the ministry team, the PCC members and all who care for our community, they are often your agents of change.

Help us, Lord, to do as St Paul said, and to recognise the spiritual needs in local and national policies. whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely - and to see it as part of your plan and purpose to make all things new.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**We pray together the Lord's Prayer** lead by Richard Gowland

**Song: Tell out my soul** played by Adrian and sung by the choir, Sue, Penny, June, Judith, Val, Jean and Janet

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age to same;  
his holy Name--the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!**

## Final Prayer

May the mind of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, live in us,  
so that his love and power controls all we do and say.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

May God give to you and to all those you love  
his comfort and his peace,  
his light and his joy,  
in this world and the next;  
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy  
Spirit, be among you and remain with you and those you love always.

*All* **Amen.**

*Shona plays her clarinet as we finish*

## **Church Open for private prayer**

Saturday afternoons 2-4pm and Wed 10-12noon.

Please use this time for quiet reflective prayer. Thank you to our  
welcomers who allow this to take place.

**HEACHAM PARISH CHURCH online service** will be on YouTube from  
8am on Sunday am  
Watch out for the email link.

Morning Prayer continues via Zoom Monday-Friday. Contact Penny Taylor  
for the link [heacham.church@gmail.com](mailto:heacham.church@gmail.com).

## **The Prayer Course- Peter Greig- Via Zoom**

John Whitbread and Gordon Taylor's homegroup continue via Zoom this  
Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> Oct at 7.00pm Please join us using this link

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5124168831?pwd=dWVsR3EzTk01OEV3WUZUY1A4dUxJdz09>

Meeting ID: 512 416 8831

Passcode: 051396

## **Trevor Shannon Books to buy**

My father in law, Rev. Canon Trevor Shannon has just had 2 books published. One is called Stories for the Seasons, (a fresh look at familiar stories in the Christian year) £6.95.

While the other is called Mary's Boy, (an imaginative look at the yawning gap in the gospel accounts of Jesus's life from age 12, to about 30 when he was baptised) £9.95.

I am happy to deliver copies to anyone who would like to purchase them. Socially distanced of course. I can be contacted by email or phone, both in the church prayer directory. Many thanks, Lynn Shannon.

## **Thank you**

Thank you to Richard C and Alex for stripping, sanding and painting at the church hall, Keith for putting up the new guttering and Terry C for supplying the paint and gutter parts.

## **Podcast: 'Sunday Hope'**

The Diocese of Norwich has a weekly audio podcast called 'Sunday Hope'.



It is available on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Overcast](#), and more.

The podcast can also be listened to from any landline telephone: call **01603 537577** (local rate) to hear the latest edition.

**Daily Hope** offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.