



Heacham Parish Church

18th October 2020 Sunday Service – Heacham Parish Church

Kath plays Prelude by Gordon Jacob on the recorder 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

Lord God, you call us to gather together in your name.
We come to worship and give you praise –
young or old, rich or poor;
sad or happy, burdened or free –
as valued beings created in your image.
Help us to see you more clearly.

May the grace of God be among us,
and the peace of God be on our hearts.

Amen.

Prayers of confession:

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved our neighbour as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humble with you, our God, Amen

The God of love brings us back to himself, forgives us our sins and assures us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Song : Only by Grace sung and played by Hilary, Lesley, Terry, and Karen

Only by grace can we enter,
Only by grace can we stand;
Not by our human endeavour,
But by the blood of the Lamb.

Into Your presence You call us,
You call us to come;
Into Your presence You draw us,
And now by Your grace we come,
Now by Your grace we come

Lord, If you mark our transgressions
Who would stand?
Thanks to Your grace we are cleansed
By the blood of the Lamb

Bible Reading: Matthew 22: 15-22 read by Pam Lee

A Reflection from John Whitbread

Yet again we see the authorities who opposed Jesus and his teaching, but this time we have two groups of people who would not normally be associated with each other, they asked the question "Is it right to pay taxes Caesar or not?"

Now the Pharisees were "devout" Jews. They were sworn enemies of the Romans and vigorously opposed Roman rule. And they stood against paying taxes to Caesar.

The other party were the Herodians who were the party of that Roman stooge, Herod. They were the wealthy and privileged class who gladly collaborated with the enemy - helping them rule the Jews - in exchange for status and power in society. So they would have no problems in paying taxes to Caesar!

This initial question put Jesus in a fix. If he said either "Yes" or "No" he would appear to be in trouble with one group of the authorities.

The "Tax" of all the taxes was uniquely required in Roman currency, a denarius, a coin that bore the image of Caesar. The coin was particularly objectionable to the pious Jews because it bore the "graven image" of Caesar, and an inscription describing him as "son of a god".

For everyday commerce, special coins were used, without these features.

So what did Jesus do? He asked for a coin, the coin used to pay the tax with. He looked at it with the images of the emperor's image as replied "Render unto Caesar's the things that are Caesars and to God the things that are of God"

And his accusers were stunned. So much so that they didn't try to coax more out of him than that.

As Michael Green has so succinctly put it: in Jesus day, the Jews benefited from "imperial roads, education, justice and freedom from invasion.... Jesus was saying that those who enjoy Caesar's benefits should pay Caesar's taxes" (Matthew - Michael Green p. 232-233)

So how are we placed today, we like the roads, rails, social services, hospitals, etc. and it is right to pay for these and we do it with the coins of today but our ultimate loyalty lies with our heavenly Father.

The coin is Caesar's property, it bears his image, so they should give to Caesar what is his. The verb "give" or "render" means repaying the debt, settling what is owed, returning something to where it belongs. It is right to give back to Caesar what belong to him. It is his money so pay your taxes in the normal way.

The other side of the matter is that God should receive his due. Israel must offer God the worship and service he deserves. This is no limited tax bill, but a completely open cheque. There is only proper way to responding to God's generosity and it is the same with us, we need to with worship, love and service of our whole lives.

Now that's a challenge isn't it?

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 Jennifer Ackin

“Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful Face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace”

So Lord we ask that we can lay aside the things of earth so that we may come to Your throne, into Your presence, with our prayerful requests for Your help and guidance.

Almighty God, our Father, we pray for our world – that perfect world which You made. Lord there are so many areas of conflict, suffering, hunger and lack of opportunity. We pray for world leaders that they may be people of integrity, people who act for the good of their country. We pray that there will be more co-operation and trust between nations and that the rich will be moved to share with the poor to a much greater extent.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for our government as they deal with such serious issues as the Covid pandemic and Brexit. Give the Prime Minister wisdom and discernment as he listens to the expert advisors and help him to strike the right balance between the health of our people and the economy of the country. Help us all, of every age group, to be aware of the seriousness of this pandemic and to accept and practise the measures that will increase safety for ourselves and others. We thank you for the dedication and

sacrifice of key workers in all situations. Help them to be kept safe and healthy.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

We remember those who are sick, in hospital, residential care or at home. Give them trust in You and awareness of Your loving presence. Help families and friends to know the best way of supporting them through difficult times.

We pray also for the families and friends of those who have died recently. Please send them the comfort, help and hope that they need especially with the current restrictions around funerals.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord we pray for our village – for all who live and work here. We thank you for the wonderful benefits which we enjoy here. We pray that those who need help or company will be recognised and supported.

We pray for the work and witness of our churches. Help those who plan to know what can be done to enable Christmas celebrations – church services and the village carol service – to happen safely within the guidelines, but losing none of the joy with which we remember our Saviour's birth.

Be with us during the week, leading and guiding us, showing us how we can live for you and share Your love with others.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

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

We pray together the Lord's Prayer lead by Adrian Flower

Song: Take my life and let it be sung and played by Judith, Sue, Richard, Lynda, Lesley and Hilary

**Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee
Take my moments and my days
Let them flow in ceaseless praise**

**Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love
Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee**

**Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee**

**Take my silver and my gold
Not a mite would I withhold
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose**

**Take my will, and make it Thine
It shall be no longer mine
Take my heart, it is Thine own
It shall be Thy royal throne**

**Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee**

Final Prayer

Into a world of confusion and disbelief,
into a world of welcome and rejection,
we take the grace of God that has been among us,
and the peace of God that has been on our hearts.

Amen.

Blessing

May God give to you
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.

Kath and David play In Christ Alone 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 Mon-Fri via Zoom.

The Prayer Course- Peter Greig- Via Zoom

John Whitbread and Gordon Taylor's homegroup continue via Zoom this
Thurs 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

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.