



Heacham Parish Church

Heacham Parish Church on-line

Sunday 25th October 2020

Opening music: -

Alison Hoyle plays "a blast from the past"

From CSSM choruses 'The best book to read is the Bible'

Welcome to our Service of worship

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Today, some are reading this from hard copy. Others are joining us via You-tube and watching on phone, tablet or pc, while others are together in Church. We meet at different times and in different ways but we are all part of one body, the Church of Jesus Christ.

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.

Praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

God is spirit.

Let us worship him in spirit and truth.

The Lord is with us.

Let us praise his name together.

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.

The congregation may not be able to sing in the Church building at present but we can sing in our homes. I do encourage you to join with our organist and choir to sing

To God be the glory

To God be the glory, great things He hath done,
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice;
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory; great things He hath done.
Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To ev'ry believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our rapture when Jesus we see.

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin
and be faithful to Christ.

As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith,
we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

**We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:
fill us with your Spirit.**

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith: fill us with your Spirit.

Christ, have mercy.

**We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:
fill us with your Spirit.**

Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive us our sins,
open our eyes to God's truth,
strengthen us to do God's will
and give us the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Bible reading:

Matthew 22 v 34 - 46. read by Richard Gowland.

A reflection from Peter Murray

Matthew 22 v 42 Questions, questions.

How do birds learn how to sing;
What brings summer after spring
What turns the leaves from green to brown
And sends them floating gently down?

Questions, questions. This is the title of a book by Marcus Pfister. Which contains this verse, a book encouraging children to ask questions. We all ask questions. They are an essential part of life, a vital way in which we learn. Life is full of questions. What will happen tomorrow? Why is there so much tragedy and unhappiness in the world? Am I of any significance? Where is God?

And quite often there just don't seem to be answers to many questions. Consider the following:

How can a brown cow eat green grass and five white milk?

What was the "best thing" before sliced bread?

If humans evolved from monkeys and apes, why do we still have monkeys and apes? Just asking!

We all have to deal with other people's questions as well as our own. They spring from different motivations. There are questions asked by those who sincerely want to know and once they are given a satisfactory answer, will perhaps change their view or behaviour.

Others ask questions but aren't necessarily seeing answers. What ever answer is given, they just want to argue or perhaps try to prove you wrong. Then there are those who are simply curious, but don't intend the answers to impact their life in any way.

Questions, questions. There's several in Matthew chapter 22. Three of them are asked by the religious leaders. And they are not genuinely seeking answers. They are all deliberately framed with the intention of discrediting Jesus, to entrap him, to bring him down. It didn't work. First, they ask a political question in vv 15-17 concerning the payment of taxes to Caesar. Next a doctrinal question is asked in vv 23-28 to do with the matter of marriage at the Resurrection (which is ironic given that the questioners didn't believe in any resurrection). And finally an ethical question appears in vv 34-36 regarding the greatest commandment. Now its time for the tables to be turned and for Jesus to pose a question of his own. "What do you think about the Christ?" (v42). This is immediately followed by a supplementary question: "Whose Son is he?" The answer they give – "Son of David"- is accurate as far as it goes, but it is incomplete. They are referring only to his humanity, seeing him only as an earthly King. In v 45 Jesus argues that because David spoke of the Christ as Lord, then the Messiah is also the Son of God, the Saviour. He is more than a figure in history.

A prominent Christian writer, C S Lewis, has provided the following illuminating and memorable comment on this matter:

'A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic- on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg- or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us, He did not intend to.'

Questions, questions. These two that Jesus asks are addressed to everyone whoever we are. They are the two most important questions of all. What answer would you give? Have you made your choice?

Time to sing again as our choir lead us singing

Hail to the Lord's anointed

Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,

To set the captive free;
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

Kings shall fall down before Him,
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him
His praise all people sing;
to him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend
His kingdom still increasing
A kingdom without end

O'er every foe victorious,
He on His throne shall rest;
From age to age more glorious,
All blessing and all blest.
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever,
His name to us is Love.

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.

Prayers of intercessionLed by Lynda Swain

"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (Hebrews 4;14-16)

Help us Lord in these troubled times as we turn to you in prayer.
We draw upon your promise to us, that you will hear us when we humble ourselves and pray.

Help us to draw close to you that we may sense your Spirit leading our thoughts and prayers, that when we ask in your name, your will, will be done here on earth as it is in heaven.

Lord we lift up to you all who are in leadership and in authority in our country at national, regional and local levels. We pray for wisdom for those who are making difficult decisions that impact on so much of our day to day lives as they seek to combat the Covid-19 virus.

We think of those whose work and livelihoods are being impacted by the various restrictions. For those whose incomes have been reduced as they are unable to work or have been made redundant, or whose businesses have folded. We pray those who have been unable to spend time with family and friends.

For those who are afraid or lonely, who feel isolated and separated from the support of others. For those anxious about dealing with the unknown and what may happen next.

Help us to be those who are willing to reach out, to make connections to bring people into fellowship with each other and with you.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Thank you, Lord, that we do have a health service that meets so many of our needs. We pray again for wisdom for those who are planning and organising how care can be delivered to those who need help amid the precautions for this virus. We pray for strength and energy for staff working in hospitals and community services and teams. We pray for care staff in care homes and those who visit people at home. We pray for the army of unpaid carers who care for family and friends. Protect and strengthen all those working in health and social care settings. Let your words of hope empower and encourage in times of darkness and despair.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Lord we remember that we do not sit here in isolation, that we are part of a hurting world, a world where war and bloodshed, famine and disasters so easily lead to disease, destruction, and death. People fleeing to find places of safety only to be caught up in people trafficking and the struggles of being a refugee. The perils of dangerous travel as others take advantage of people's desperation. Lord we pray for all those organisations seeking to bring hope in these difficult and hopeless

situations. We pray for the work of Tearfund and others who seek to bring practical care and concern into our world. Help us to be positive supporters with our prayers, our finances, and actions. Lord in your mercy ***Hear our prayer***

Lord we pray for our church family here in Heacham. Thank you for all those who have faithfully served you over these difficult days. Thank you for all who have shown through their words and actions what it means to be Church here today. Give wisdom and strength to Veronica our Vicar and those in the ministry team, help them we pray, to help us to serve our village and communities, to seek ways to reach out and enable us all to be the light on the hill shining hope amid the darkness of fear, uncertainty and disruption. Lord in your mercy ***Hear our prayer***

Lord help us to remember all those who are suffering in some way at this time. Those who are in grief dealing with the loss of loved ones, for those in pain or distress, struggling with illness or injury. Let us take a few moments to bring before God, those we know need His touch at this time. Thank you, Lord, that no need is too great for you, and we lift into your hands all those we have named silently before you today. Draw close to them, may they know your love and your care for them.

Use us Lord as your hands and feet, to be your willing servants, send us out into this world equipped to do your will, ready to listen and to follow you. Lead us Lord to where we must go and strengthen us as we serve you.

Merciful Father - ***Hear our prayers for the sake of your son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen***

The Lord's Prayer Led by Kath Burkett

Closing prayers

Eternal God, our beginning and our end,
accompany us in this day's journey.
Dawn on our darkness,
open our eyes to praise you for your creation
and to see the work you set before us today.
Take us and use us
to bring to others the new life you give in 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.**

We go into the world
to walk in God's light,
to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect God's glory

Closing music

*Alison plays from
'Pieces for musical clock' No.7 Allegretto by Joseph Haydn. Haydn wrote
30 pieces for the musical clock which was a mechanical organ with a
clock. A reminder we have just reverted to GMT.*

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.

Money, Money Money !

At our last meeting, John, our church treasurer informed the PCC that church expenditure is significantly greater than our income.

DIFFERENCE	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
August -972	4606	5578
Sept -3284	5603	8887

We have reduced our expenditure, as much as possible, including our parish share.

Thank you to all regular givers as the church would be in a far worse situation than it is, if you hadn't responded to the stewardship campaign last year and many of you changed to giving by standing order. Thank you for continuing to give generously to the church when the building was closed.

Please pray for the parish finances and if you are able to increase your regular giving or give a financial gift, it would be much appreciated.

A fundraising committee is being set up to try to address our financial position but will have limited immediate effect due to Covid restrictions. If you would like to be part of this committee, do let us know.

Thankyou Veronica and Liz, on behalf of the PCC