



Heacham Parish Church



Sunday Service 11th April 2021 - 2nd Sunday of Easter

*Opening music – 'Songs without words' - Joseph Bonnet
Played on the quiet stops of the Heacham Parish Church organ.*

Welcome to our Service of Worship for Sunday 11th April.
Although we join this at various times and from various places we come together as one body, the Church of Jesus Christ.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

**He has given us new life and hope
by raising Jesus from the dead.**

God has claimed us as his own:

He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Almighty God,
your Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence.
Give us new hearts and constant wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

God of our days and years,
we set this time apart for you.
Form us in the likeness of Christ
so that our lives may glorify you.

Amen.

Song: **Breathe on me, breath of God**

Breathe on me, breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what Thou dost love,
and do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with Thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
Till I am wholly Thine,
until this earthly part of me
Glows with Thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with Thee the perfect life
of Thine eternity.

Prayers of penitence

Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Bible reading: John Ch 20 v 19 – 31. Read by Sue.

A reflection by Peter Murray

Behind Locked Doors

In today's reading we are given an account of Jesus' first appearance to his disciples after his resurrection. Here is a group of frightened and demoralised people, meeting behind locked doors for fear of the Jews (v 19). Fear was the dominant emotion; they were afraid of reprisals from religious authorities, and they are full of doubt and bewilderment.

Then something truly wonderful and amazing happened. Verse 19 tells us that "Jesus came and stood among them". The locked doors were no barrier. His living presence dispelled their fear, and they were overjoyed. It must have seemed too good to be true; yet it was. He showed them his hands and side so that they would know beyond any doubt that this was the same Jesus who three days earlier had been crucified.

This change in the disciples is surely another indication of the reality of the resurrection.

Twice he gives them his peace (verses 19 and 21) which quietened their hearts and minds. A previous Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, described it as "an inward peace, independent of circumstance, springing from union with the Father". These words conveyed a special meaning and no doubt the disciples would have recalled Jesus' promise given in the upper room during the last supper: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.... Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27).

This peace "transcends all understanding" (Philippians 4:7) and is a gift to all who follow him.

Jesus also gave them a purpose, a commission for service. In verse 21 he tells the disciples, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you". They - and we - are called to co-operate with God in forwarding his mission in the world. This is one of the main themes in John's gospel. It is mentioned again in John 17: 18 where Jesus says, "As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world". Here is a reminder that the church in every age and in every place is continually called to proclaim the Gospel and make disciples. And this mission imperative applies to every Christian. Just as Jesus equipped them for service by enabling them to receive the Holy Spirit, (verse 22), so that same power is available to us today. We, like them, have a vital part to play in spreading the Gospel when we have the opportunity, and in so doing, confidently leave the results in his hands.

Affirmation of faith

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received, and this we believe.
Amen.**

Song: Jesus Christ, I think upon your sacrifice

Jesus Christ, I think upon your sacrifice;
you became nothing, poured out to death.
Many times I've wondered at your gift of life,
and I'm in that place once again,
I'm in that place once again.

*And once again I look upon the cross where you died.
I'm humbled by your mercy and I'm broken inside.
Once again I thank you,
once again I pour out my life.*

Now you are exalted to the highest place,
King of the heavens, where one day I'll bow.
But for now I marvel at this saving grace,
and I'm full of praise once again,
I'm full of praise once again.

And once again...

Prayers of Intercession, led by Jennifer

As we approach our prayers of intercession – our “asking” prayers, we need to remind ourselves of the power and majesty of our God and of His love and concern for all mankind.

Lord we come into Your presence comforted and encouraged by the knowledge that You are the creator of this world; You know us all by name, all our joys, all our sorrows, all our needs. Thank You for this assurance.

Dear Father, we pray for governments throughout the world as they struggle to find the right and effective ways to protect their people from the Covid pandemic. Please give them good advice from the scientists and wisdom and honesty in their discussions and decisions. For our own country we thank You for the progress made and ask that we will all continue to be patient and careful, for our own sake and for those around us.

Lord in Your mercy hear our prayer

We pray for the work, worship, and witness of our church here in Heacham. Things have been so different in this past year with recorded services and Zoom meetings. We are together, though apart, and strive to remain so and to be a light in this place. Help Veronica and the ministry team members to have good ideas and renewed energy for the months ahead. Thank You for the new contacts that have been made and our hope is that Christ will be seen in us, imperfect though we be.

Lord in Your mercy hear our prayer

We pray for our school populations – staff, pupils, and their families – that they may have refreshment in the Easter break. Thank You for our schools and the tremendous efforts that have been made to maintain the pupils' education. As they return to full time lessons again please help them to catch up on what has been missed during the school closures. We pray for safe, enjoyable hard-working times ahead for them.

Lord in Your mercy hear our prayer

Father we bring to You all the front-line workers who have sacrificially cared for us in this past year and who are exhausted. Many of them have suffered from Covid and some have died from it. Lord renew their strength, keep them safe and help us to show our enormous gratitude.

Lord in Your mercy hear our prayer

We pray for those who are ill, those who are nearing the end of their earthly life, those who mourn, those who are depressed, lacking hope, those whose faith is wavering. In a time of silence, we name them to You and ask for Your comfort and healing.

Lord in Your mercy hear our prayer

We pray for the chaplains to hospitals, prisons, and the armed forces who minister in different and often difficult circumstances. Help them to bring light into dark places, to bring hope and above all the certainty of the love of Jesus for each and every one.

Lord in Your mercy hear our prayer

Father we pray for ourselves that we may stay close to You this week. May the joy of Easter lighten our way and may we lighten the way of others. Give us the courage to respond to the opportunities that You may give us to talk about You.

We bring all our prayers to the foot of the cross – that cross where Jesus died for us – remembering that the risen Jesus is interceding for us and with us. We thank You that You are our God - that You let us know you. Amazing grace!

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

The Lord's prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass
against us
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory
For ever and ever Amen.**

Collect for today

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.
Amen

Closing prayers

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

**You have given us a share in the inheritance
of the saints in light.**

Great and wonderful are your deeds,

Lord God almighty;

just and true are your ways,

King of the ages.

To you be praise and glory,

now and for ever.

Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,

you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,

and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:

give us the courage to follow you

and to proclaim you as Lord and King,

to the glory of God the Father.

You believe that by his dying

Christ destroyed death for ever.

Amen.

You have been crucified with Christ

and live by faith in the Son of God,

who loved you and gave himself for you.

Amen.

May he send you out to glory in his cross,

and live no longer for yourselves but for him,

who died and was raised to life for us.

Amen.

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,

the glory, the splendour, and the majesty:

for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

Yours, Lord, is the kingdom:
and you are exalted as head over all.

Alleluia, Alleluia. Amen.

Closing music – Bach BWV 630

'Heut' Triumphiret Gottes Sohn'

Said to be one of the best organ postludes of all time.

Today God's only-gotten Son

Arose from death and triumph won.

Lo! Death is crushed – nay Death must die,

By Jesus smitten hip and thigh;

Alleluya!

Like armoured knight, with skilful thrust

Christ made His foeman hit the dust

Alleluya

The translation is by G R Woodward who lived at Gt Massingham

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