



Heacham Parish Church



## **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021 – Trinity 16**

***Opening music*** – Adrian plays 'Tambourin' by Francois Gossec on the Parish Church organ.

This is Heacham Parish Church on-line. You join us for our Service of Worship for 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity. Although we join this at various times, from various places and in various ways we come together as one body, the Church of Jesus Christ.

Welcome in the name of Christ.  
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you  
**and also with you.**

The Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.  
**Let us rejoice and shout for joy,  
giving God the glory.**

We stand before the throne of God  
with countless crowds  
from every nation and race, tribe and language.  
**Blessing and glory and wisdom,  
thanksgiving and honour, power and might  
be to our God for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

Faithful one, whose word is life:  
come with saving power  
to free our praise,  
inspire our prayer  
and shape our lives  
for the kingdom of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Song: Rosie & Colin bring us '**These are the days of Elijah**'  
from their home in Israel.

These are the days of Elijah,  
declaring the word of the Lord:  
and these are the days of Your servant Moses,  
righteousness being restored.  
And though these are days of great trial,  
of famine and darkness and sword,  
still we are a voice in the desert crying,  
'Prepare ye the way of the Lord.'

*Behold He comes riding on the clouds,  
shining like the sun at the trumpet call;  
lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee,  
out of Zion's hill salvation comes.*

These are the days of Ezekiel,  
the dry bones becoming as flesh;  
and these are the days of Your servant David,  
rebuilding the temple of praise.  
These are the days of the harvest,  
the fields are as white as the world,  
and we are the labourers in the vineyard,  
declaring the word of the Lord.

*Behold He comes...*

## **Prayers of penitence**

St Paul says  
'Be imitators of God;  
love as Christ loved;  
do not grieve the Holy Spirit;  
put away all anger and bitterness,  
all slander and malice.'  
So let us confess our sins to God  
who forgives us in Christ.

**God of mercy,  
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.  
We turn from the wrong that we have thought  
and said and done,  
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.  
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,  
forgive us for all that is past,  
and help us to live each day  
in the light of Christ our Lord.  
Amen**

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive us our sins  
and make us holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**Bible reading** – Ephesians Ch 5:5 22–33 read by Lois

**A reflection** – by John

Paul has moved on to a new topic, the subject is on “Wives and Husbands” which is followed by other family relationships namely “Children and Parents” and “Slaves and Masters”. Here Paul employs what writers have called a “Household Code” a section of teaching on the various relationship within family life.

In Ephesians 5, Paul makes several statements about the relationship between husbands and wives, and he presents the relationship between Jesus and the Church as a model for example. Some think Jesus’ authority is given here as an example for husbands to follow. However, unity is the example, and Paul uses a head-body metaphor to illustrate this.

Metaphorically, Jesus is the “head” united to the Church, which is his “body”. Unity was made possible, and is maintained, because Jesus loves the Church and gave himself up for her. The Church sustains this union by being cooperative and faithful to Jesus.

In marriage, the husband and the wife are united in God’s sight, to foster the unity, Paul urges husbands to love their wives just as “Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her”. He further urges husbands to “love their own wives as they love their own bodies” and adds “He who loves his wife loves himself.” After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the Church”.

Paul continues with the theme of unity by quoting Genesis 2:24 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh" (Eph. 5:31). It is worth noting that leadership and authority are not mentioned in this passage. Paul never uses a word that means "lead" in his words to husbands.

Paul was not teaching husbands to be leaders, and wives to be followers. Instead, he urged husbands to love and nurture their wives, and he urged wives to be deferential, cooperative, and loyal, as well as respectful, to their husbands.

What we read today is husbands and wives are singled out and given instructions concerning certain attitudes and behaviours, but this does not mean wives are exempt from being loving and nurturing towards husbands, or husbands are exempt from being submissive and respectful towards their wives. If we read on early in the chapter there is a call for us all to be mutually submissive (verse 21), and the start of the chapter opens with a call for everyone to love sacrificially as Christ loves, verse 1 and 2.

Genuine and reciprocal love and faithfulness were absent in many marriages in the first-century Greco-Roman world. It is in this context that Paul wrote Ephesians 5:22-23 and pressed for unity in Christian marriage, with the union of Jesus and the Church as the model.

I wonder what you think of marriage today. For me I believe in what the bible says that the love is shared between us as husband and wife, in that making the vows to God we are in partnership with God, the three of us all interwoven forever.

**Amen**

## **Affirmation of faith**

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.**

### **Song: The Church's one foundation**

Played and sung by Hilary & Lesley, Lynda, Val, Sue, Judith,  
and Richard C.

The Church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ our Lord:  
she is His new creation  
by water and the word;  
from heaven He came and sought her  
to be His holy bride;  
with His own blood He bought her,  
and for her life He died

Elect from every nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation  
one Lord, one faith, one birth,  
one holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses,  
with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder  
men see her sore oppressed,  
by schism rent asunder  
by heresies distressed;  
yet saints their watch are keeping,  
their cry goes up: 'How long?'  
and soon the night of weeping  
shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation,  
and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation  
of peace evermore;  
till with the vision glorious  
her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great Church victorious  
shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union  
with God the Three-in-One,  
and mystic sweet communion  
with those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones and holy!  
Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly,  
on high may dwell with Thee.

**Prayers of Intercession** – Led by Judith & Terry.

Heavenly Father,

We come before you now, aware of all our failings during the past week and in need of Your mercy, forgive us the times we have not done Your will and prepare us now for the coming week ahead.

**This we pray in Your precious name, Amen.**

Lord, we pray for the fragile process in Afghanistan and for those who call it home. We remember with renewed sadness the loss of lives of military personnel and those caught up in the conflict on all sides. We pray for peace, dignity, freedom, and a confidence in the future for the men, women and children, children who have yet to live in an environment free of fighting and war.

**This we pray in Your precious name, Amen.**

Heavenly Father,

We pray for Your Church here in Heacham. Lord You have seen us through difficult times, always there for us to call upon. We thank You for hearing the concerns we have and the comfort of knowing You care. In a moment of silence, we bring before you now our individual thanks and requests for Your help.....Lord, thank You for listening.

We pray for the leadership in the Church and especially for Veronica, may she feel Your presence each moment of the day, may she trust in Your goodness in all things and for Simon and Kaitlin, may they both be aware of our love for them.

**This we pray in your precious name, Amen.**

Lord, we pray for all those facing various illnesses, treatment, and surgery. So many people are finding treatment or surgery is delayed. We ask for wisdom for those making decisions about the NHS, for the doctors and nurses working under pressure and for funds to be made available to deal with the ongoing pandemic and backlog of patients waiting for treatment.

We pray for young people and families facing the challenge of deciding whether to have or not to have the Covid vaccination. Let the decisions bring families together and not cause division. We pray for schools and head teachers who are concerned they will find themselves brought into the decisions causing anxiety and pressure. Let Your peace reign in these decisions.

Lord we pray for relationships which may have become strained during Covid. Give us a greater understanding of one another and take away the preconceived notions and assumptions that are keeping us from truly communicating. Let our actions and words always follow Your message of love and forgiveness.

Lord we ask that You would answer these prayers in Your time and Your way.

***The Lord's prayer***

### **Collect for today**

Lord of creation,  
whose glory is around and within us:  
open our eyes to your wonders,  
that we may serve you with reverence  
and know your peace at our lives' end,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### **Closing prayers**

The Word of life which was from the beginning  
**we proclaim to you.**

The darkness is passing away  
and the true light is already shining;

**the Word of life which was from the beginning.**

That which we heard, which we saw with our eyes,  
and touched with our hands,

**we proclaim to you.**

For our fellowship is with the Father,  
and with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**The Word of life which was from the beginning  
we proclaim to you.**

This is love, not that we loved God,  
**but that he loved us and sent his Son.**

He is the sacrifice for our sins,  
**that we might live through him.**

If God loves us so much  
**we ought to love one another.**

If we love one another  
**God lives in us.**

Lord God,  
you hold both heaven and earth in a single peace.  
Let the design of your great love  
shine on the waste of our anger and sorrow,  
and give peace to your Church,  
peace among nations,  
peace in our homes,  
and peace in our hearts,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

We are called and loved by God the Father  
and kept safe by Jesus Christ.  
Mercy, peace and love be ours in abundance,  
from God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

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

***Closing music*** – *Adrian plays 'Menuet Gothique' by Leon Boellmann*

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