



Heacham Parish Church



**Sunday Service 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021 - 4th Sunday of Easter**

*Opening music – Hubert Parry's setting of 'Jerusalem' played by Alison.*

Welcome to our Service of Worship for Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> 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.**

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.**

Be with us, Spirit of God;

**nothing can separate us from your love.**

Breathe on us, breath of God;

**fill us with your saving power.**

Speak in us, wisdom of God;

**bring strength, healing and peace.**

*Silence is kept.*

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

**Song: Christ is made the sure foundation**

Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the head and corner-stone  
chosen of the Lord and precious,  
binding all the Church in one;  
holy Zion's help for ever,  
and her confidence alone.

All within that holy city  
Dearly loved of God on high,  
in exultant jubilation  
sing, in perfect harmony;  
God the One-in-Three adoring  
in glad hymns eternally.

We are living stones invoke you:  
Come among us, Lord, today!  
with Your gracious loving-kindness  
hear Your children as we pray;  
and the fulness of Your blessing  
in our fellowship display.

Here entrust to all Your servants  
what we long from You to gain –  
that on earth and in the heavens  
we one people shall remain,  
till united in Your glory  
evermore with You we reign.

Praise and honour to the Father,  
praise and honour to the Son,  
praise and honour to the Spirit,  
ever Three and ever One:  
one in power and one in glory  
while eternal ages run.

## Prayers of penitence

The grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.

Let us come to him, in sorrow for our sins, seeking healing and salvation.

**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 our Father forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to the eternal joy of his kingdom  
where dust and ashes have no dominion.

**Amen.**

Bible reading – Acts 4: 5–12 read by Gloria

A reflection by Veronica.

We need a wee bit of context here for this Bible reading that Gloria has just read. It doesn't work for us chronologically (this is only the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter for us here in Heacham in 2021). In the Bible story this encounter takes place after Jesus has died, been resurrected, ascended into Heaven, and just after the 1<sup>st</sup> Pentecost when the Holy Spirit filled the disciples with confidence and gave them power to do great things in Jesus' name.

We also need to remember who Peter is, he was a fisherman, who gave up everything to follow Jesus. He was with Jesus for most of his miracles, teaching, and life for 3 years, at his transfiguration, crucifixion, death, and resurrection.

He denied Jesus, he was there at the 1<sup>st</sup> Pentecost, he was forgiven, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to do that which was humanly impossible for him.

So, just before this scene Peter and John were on their way to the temple to pray, Peter healed a lame man in Jesus' name and then gave a fine sermon/testimony about how he did it and what the listeners needed to do to be saved. While he was speaking about Jesus and faith, the religious leaders and hierarchy came up to Peter and John to listen and they were not happy, so they put Peter and John in Jail! It's worth noting that the Bible tells us that many who heard Peter's message believed it and the number of believers grew to about 5000 immediately after this!

So, our reading today is about the following morning, Peter and John had been in jail overnight when the religious leaders brought them before them for questioning. Peter again, gives the most amazing testimony of how the man was healed in the name of Jesus, and that it is only through Jesus that salvation can be found.

I quote, 'it is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.' ... 'Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to humankind by which we must be saved.'

Peter, the fisherman, becomes Peter the evangelist! Peter has been transformed from a quivering mess at the crucifixion to a confident rock on whom the church is built. Peter has been transformed from denying that he knew Jesus, to telling his story to all who would listen. Peter who has not studied Rabbinic law or theology astounded the religious leaders with the depth of his knowledge and faith, he challenges them. Get your bible out and read on to see what happened next!

This story reminds us of the transformation that can and does take place through Jesus. Peter and John were given what they needed but did not humanly have to do what needed doing, through the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus.

We can and do, do the same, Jesus in 2021 still uses the most unlikely people to do amazing things in his name and with the power of the Holy Spirit.

This week, let us each pray for the Holy Spirit to fill us with power, so that we too can act in Jesus' name and do or say something amazing!

Let's be bold and brave this week, and ask Jesus to use us, and be ready to speak or act in his name, knowing that we will be given the power, skills, and confidence to do so.

I look forward to hearing what you have been able to do or to whom you have been able to tell your story in Jesus' name and with the power of the Holy Spirit.

In a few minutes we will sing (of if we are in church listen to) the song 'No other name', as we do so let's ask God to fill us, to empower us, and use us in the coming week.

*No other name but the name of Jesus is worthy of glory, and worthy of honour, and worthy of power, and all praise.*

### **Affirmation of faith**

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

Song: **No other name**

*No other name but the name of Jesus,  
no other name but the name of the Lord;  
no other name but the name of Jesus  
is worthy of glory,  
and worthy of honour,  
and worthy of power and all praise.*

*No other name.....*

His name is exalted far above the earth,  
His name is high above the heavens;  
His name is exalted far above the earth-  
give glory and honour and praises  
to His name.

*No other name....*

Prayers of Intercession led by Ren

Loving Father, we come to you with our intercessions, as you have invited us to. We pray that you will enable us to talk to you about our deepest concerns, knowing and trusting that you will hear us and answer our cries to you in the way that is best. Please help us to truly understand that and to meet you with gratitude and praise as we pray.

We look at the beautiful world you have given for our homeland. We are becoming more aware, more concerned about the future and the damage done to this planet, much of it by us. Please help us to see how we might repair that damage. Be with the leaders of the nations whose responsibility it is to commit to change and with us as we try to implement those changes in our lives.

We look at this world Father. Ravaged as it is by the pandemic we pray for those countries where the people are at such risk, without the benefits of a competent vaccine program, medical aid, or proper leadership. We lift Brazil to you where lack of food is adding to the terrible circumstances there. We pray for our own government. Help our

leaders to govern with honesty, integrity, and to truly recognise their duty as our elected representatives over that of their own interests or advantages.

Help our spiritual leaders to be able to influence situations of injustice and to represent you Lord, as you wish them to. We pray for our beloved Veronica and her family. Give her energy and courage on the difficult path she walks for you.

This village, Father, is the place where we have some awareness of the difficulties our friends and neighbours are experiencing. Help and comfort those please who are ill, anxious, isolated, and lonely. We all know of a situation where your touch is particularly needed. As we picture that situation, the people in it, their needs, may we see in our minds eye your ministering Love, Holy Spirit and know in faith that you are there.

We pray for those who pray for people and draw comfort from knowing that all over the world our brothers and sisters in Christ are talking to you as we are.

We bring to you Lord those who are sick in body or mind. Enable them please Father to rest in you, to know themselves to be safe and to heal in your time and your way.

We pray for those who grieve. We lift the Queen and her whole family to you as they face the sorrow of this time. We all have friends in this situations and we lift them up to you asking that they should know the comfort of your love.

Father, comfort and reassure the dying and those who love them . May they feel the gentle touch of your arms around them and not be anxious or afraid. Please grant them time where it is needed for the healing of past disagreements and where there are family rifts we pray for real forgiveness.

Lord of all, as we say together the words that you gave us, may those words truly have meaning for us today. May the rich blessing they contain resonate in our lives and may we draw great strength from knowing that we speak those words in the company of all your children throughout the world.

## **Together we say the Lord's prayer.**

### *Collect for today*

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:  
raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,  
that we may seek those things which are above,  
where he reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

### *Closing prayers*

God of our salvation,  
you have restored us to life,  
you have brought us back again into your love  
by the triumphant death and resurrection of Christ.  
Continue to heal us,  
as we go to live and work  
in the power of your Spirit,  
to your praise and glory.

May the Father,  
who so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
bring you by faith to his eternal life.

**Amen.**

May Christ,  
who accepted the cup of sacrifice  
in obedience to the Father's will,  
keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of his cross.

**Amen.**

May the Spirit,  
who strengthens us to suffer with Christ  
that we may share his glory,  
set your minds on life and peace.

**Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
Be among us and remain with us always.

**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  
'Eastertide procession' by Andrew Moore.*

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Church Contact:

Rev. Veronica Wilson tel. 01485 570697

or email: [heacham.vicar@gmail.com](mailto:heacham.vicar@gmail.com)

Church Office tel. 01485 572539 (answerphone)

Or email: [heacham.church@gmail.com](mailto:heacham.church@gmail.com)