



Heacham Parish Church



## **Sunday Service 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent**

*Opening music – The Light of Christ –  
Played on two recorders by Hilary and Lesley*

Welcome to our Service of Worship for Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February. Although we join this service at various times and from various places we come together as one body, the Church of Jesus Christ.

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.  
Let us recognise his presence with us.

*Silence is kept.*

As God's people we have gathered:  
**let us worship him together.**

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

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.**

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:     **Will you come and follow me**

Sung and played by Judith, Sue, Lynda, Richard C, Colin, Hilary, and Lesley.

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Prayers of penitence

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.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you,  
through our own fault,  
in thought, and word, and deed,**

**and in what we have left undone.  
We are heartily sorry,  
and repent of all our sins.  
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*Bible reading:* John 1: 1–14 read by Amanda.

### **The Word Became Flesh**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

*Unfortunately, we do not have the text of the sermon this week so please use the time for personal reflection on the above. If you have internet access a reflection on these verses, by Rev Adrian Aubrey-Jones, is available on Youtube.*

### **Affirmation of faith**

We proclaim the Church's faith in Jesus Christ.

**We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is both divine and human.**

God, of the being of the Father,  
the only Son from before time began;  
human from the being of his mother, born in the world;

**Fully God and fully human;  
human in both mind and body.**

As God he is equal to the Father,  
as human he is less than the Father.

**Although he is both divine and human  
he is not two beings but one Christ.**

One, not by turning God into flesh,  
but by taking humanity into God;

**Truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead,  
but by being one person.**

For as mind and body form one human being  
so the one Christ is both divine and human.

**The Word became flesh and lived among us;  
we have seen his glory,  
the glory of the only Son from the Father,  
full of grace and truth.**

Song:     **With a prayer you fed the hungry**

Played and sung by Hilary, Lesley, Karen, Terry, and Richard G.

With a cry You stilled the storm;  
With a look You had compassion  
On the desperate and forlorn.  
With a touch You healed the leper,  
With a shout You raised the dead;  
With a word expelled the demons,  
With a blessing broke the bread.

Love Incarnate, Love Divine,  
Captivate this heart of mine,  
Till all I do. Speaks of You.

As a sheep before the shearer  
You were silent in Your pain;  
You endured humiliation  
At the hands of those You'd made.  
And as hell unleashed its fury  
You were lifted on a tree,  
Crying 'Father God, forgive them,  
Place their punishment on me.'

Love ...

I will feed the poor and hungry,  
I will stand up for the truth;  
I will take my cross and follow  
To the corners of the earth.  
And I ask that You so fill me  
With Your peace, your power, your breath,  
That I never love my life so much  
To shrink from facing death.

Love .....

Love ....

Prayers of Intercession led by Judith and 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 ask in your precious name, Amen.

Lord, we find ourselves living in uncertain times, not fully knowing when we'll be able to return to a more normal way of life, yet one thing we can be certain of, is that you will always be there for us and so we bring before you now the worries and anxieties we all have during this Covid-19 pandemic.

We pray for our young children who continue to suffer the disturbance to their learning, Lord, give them a knowledge of your love.

We pray for college students having to adapt to a way of learning far removed from their expectations of what student life held for them, Lord, give them too, a knowledge of your love.

We pray for those who have been able to continue going to work, Lord keep them safe as they provide a service to our country, and for those furloughed from their usual employment, give them confidence in what the future holds.

We pray for those waiting to enter the field of employment and see little prospect ahead. Lord, give them patience and an understanding that this will change once this virus has been brought under control.

We pray for the elderly and those confined to a way of life that has restricted family contact with their children and grandchildren. Lord, show them your light ahead and keep them strong in faith.

Heavenly Father, we pray for our Health Service and all who work so steadfastly providing care for all needing treatment for a variety of conditions, give the doctors and nurses and all health care workers a knowledge of your love and sustain them throughout and for the duration of these uncertain times. This we pray in your precious name, Amen

Lord we pray for all those facing illness today. We ask that you would bring healing and comfort. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of your love.

We thank you for the courage and dedication of all the NHS staff. Give them strength and wisdom to cope.

We pray for those mourning the loss of a relative or friend. Heal their brokenness and lead them through the darkness into your light.

We pray for those whose position and authority affect the lives of others. Inspire them with a vision of how community should be, a place where people are concerned for and show love to one another which heals hatred, fear and discontent.

We pray that we and people everywhere will receive grace to see everyone as equal regardless of race, language or culture.

We pray for parents and educators that they may teach our children how to resolve differences non- violently and respectfully. Help us to work together with one heart with sympathy, empathy and understanding.

Lord we pray for our children and families. Thank you for the use of technology to help us keep in touch. Give those families who are working from home- and home-schooling patience and let there be times of fun and laughter.

Lord, we ask that you would answer our prayers in your time and your way.

Amen.

### **Collect for today**

Almighty God,

you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image:

teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. **Amen**

### **The Lord's prayer**

led by Alison W

**Closing prayers**

Let us give thanks to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
**who has blessed us in Christ  
with every spiritual blessing.**

Before the world was made, God chose us in Christ,  
**that we might be holy and blameless before him.**

Let us praise God for the glory of his grace,  
**for the free gift he gave us in his dear Son.**

To Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
**give praise and dominion, honour and might,  
for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

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.**

Father of lights,  
from whom comes every good and perfect gift:  
keep us in the light of Christ,  
to shine in your world,  
that all may believe in you,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Closing music – Hilary and Lesley play 'Christ be our light' on two recorders.*

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