

Gathering Song: Above all powers [Le Blanc / Baloché]

**Welcome to this Service of Holy Communion
for 10.00am Sunday 5th July 2020**

In this time of continuing uncertainty, many more people are turning to God in prayer. We were delighted to welcome 29 people into church on Wednesday when we opened up for Private Prayer and there is a Labyrinth on the Church Green for people to walk round and have time and space to think and a conversation with God. We may be reassured that God is with us. May the light and peace from God our Father be with you.
and bless you

**All: May God fill us with truth and joy.
Lord, direct our thoughts,
teach us to pray,
lift up our hearts to worship you
in Spirit and truth
and hope
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Hymn: Great is Thy faithfulness

Preparation for Confession

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world
and knows our every word and deed.
As the Spirit of Truth, he convicts us of all that separates us from him.
Let us open ourselves to our Risen Lord and Father,
confessing our sins in sorrow and faith.

**All:
Father we have sinned against heaven and against you.
We are not worthy to be called your children.
We turn to you again.**

Have mercy on us,
bring us back to yourself,
as those who once were dead,
but now have life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Absolution

May God who is both power and love,
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We say together the Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:

Increase and multiply upon us your mercy;

That with you as our ruler and guide

We may so pass through things temporal

That we might lose not our hold on things eternal;

Grant this, heavenly Father,

For our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,

Who is alive and reigns with you,

In the unity of the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn: Jesus, hope of the nations

Reading from Zechariah 9: 9 - 10

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!

Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you,

righteous and victorious,

lowly and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

I will take away the chariots from Ephraim

and the warhorses from Jerusalem,

and the battle bow will be broken.

He will proclaim peace to the nations.

His rule will extend from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145: 8 – 14 read by Paul Weatherill

The LORD is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.

The LORD is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.

All your works praise you, LORD;
your faithful people extol you.

They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might,
so that all people may know of your mighty acts
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.

The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises
and faithful in all he does.

The LORD upholds all who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew chapter 11: 16 – 19; 25 - end**

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

“To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others:

“‘We played the pipe for you,
and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge,
and you did not mourn.’

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is proved right by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

"All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Talk

Our God of Wisdom Gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love

John the Baptist had preached and pleaded with the people around him to repent from their sinful ways. He pledged his whole life to prepare the way for Jesus Christ. As recorded in the Gospel reading, Jesus asked: "To what can I compare this generation?" Right at the beginning of Jesus's ministry there was an intense frustration. There was no understanding with this people – whether it was John who came with no eating or drinking from his isolated lifestyle set apart from the people, or Jesus eating and drinking fully integrating with the people. Neither of them was fully accepted or believed.

Why? God reveals the treasure of his wisdom to those who like 'little children' will listen, will learn and will follow in trust, those who are leading them along a safe path.

Wisdom has been described as:

the ability to think and act using knowledge, experience, understanding, common sense and insight. Wisdom is associated with attributes such as unbiased judgment, compassion.

Wisdom is the oil every wheel of society throughout the world needs, for it to turn ... for recreativity; for sustainability and productivity; for the creativity of people's inbuilt potential to flourish and, along with everyone else, to make up a flourishing, mutually honouring community.

The total essence of wisdom is the treasure in the heart of God. He fits the whole

description, within his all encompassing love. But treasure has to be discovered. It has to be wanted so much that the seeker will push on until they find it and it becomes their treasure. It concerns who God is, how Jesus Christ lives in us through the power of the Holy Spirit. God's wisdom is the power for good, to bring new order out of chaos, wherever it is shared, throughout the world.

As well as the readings set for today, lines from the hymns and songs capture God's nature, which is caught up in this treasure of his identity:

Above all powers, above all wisdom and all the ways of man;

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, thy compassions they fail not;

Jesus, hope of the nations, light in the darkness, truth in each circumstance;

Faithful One, all through the storm your love is the anchor;

Everlasting God, defender of the weak, you comfort those in need

How courageous prophets like Zechariah needed to be, to speak out in the face of Israel's 'recalcitrant' attitude towards God. They'd find themselves up against their enemies, call on God for help and then, once rescued, return to their former self-centred, self controlling ways and their worship of idols and false gods.

Yet, even so, God's love would not let go or give up. And neither would Jesus facing his generation, declaring, with patience: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light".

Today, here and now, we are weary and burdened. Lockdown has been restful for some, but coming out of lockdown is very challenging for all. The politicians and the scientists and medical officers are in favour and then out of it, just like the people of Israel and those of John and Jesus's generation. People may long for clear guidelines to ensure their safety, but they want their kind of normality back. Feelings are raw and rise up sending people this way and then the other.

Who knows the right ways to go forwards? True wisdom begins and ends with God. He is the Creator. He is all present, all knowing and all powerful. The key to unlocking this wisdom is to follow God's leading and Jesus's saving love, in standing the ground with loving our neighbour, so that both the welfare of the whole and the individuals within it, are carefully considered.

God's army of power is actually headed by the one described by Zechariah as merely riding on a donkey; the one who was doing away with the battle bow, to bring peace. That kind of wisdom passes all our understanding. It quite simply is treasure that requires our faith and trust. Then it opens up. We find ourselves touched by the hallmarks of the all encompassing love and light of God that shines within us,

compelling us to share it with everyone we meet along life's way.

Let's call on God to help us seek out more and more the treasure of his loving and true wisdom. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, may it break out in us, inspiring confidence, as we take those we know with us in hope, to the new normality. Amen.

The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
who made all things?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,
who redeemed the world?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Hymn: Faithful one

Intercessions led by Margaret Enger

Merciful Father

All: Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you

and also with you.

The Holy Communion

The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;

in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away

you did not reject us,

but came to meet us in your Son.

**All: You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life

that we might live in him and he in us.

**All: He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,

at supper with his friends

he took bread, and gave you thanks;

he broke it and gave it to them, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

**All: Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

**All: Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**All: As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We say together 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.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many,
we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The body of Christ given for us. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ shed for us. **Amen.**

God of truth,
thank you for feeding us with the body
and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Strengthen our faith,
that we may grow in love for you
and for each other;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.
Amen.

Song: Everlasting God [Brown/Riley]

Notices:

Blessing:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
through the power of the Holy Spirit;

and may the blessing of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you
and all those you care for now and for always. **Amen.**

Amen.

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