

Morning Worship

Sunday 17th May 2020

The Welcome and Introduction

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ
We welcome you today
to gather with us
in worship, wherever you are.
Though we are apart, we are together in Christ
Who draws us to Himself.
Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
Be with you.

All: And also with you

Opening Prayer

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.

All: Amen

Collect

**All: God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us
to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen**

First Song: In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,

Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones he came to save;
When on that cross as Jesus died,
The love of God was magnified
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain,
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

*CCLI Song #3350395
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Being Sorry and seeking forgiveness

God our Father,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins.
For turning away from you,
and ignoring your will for our lives;
Father, forgive us:

All: Save us and help us

For behaving just as we wish,
without thinking of you
or of others;
Father, forgive us:

All: Save us and help us

For failing you by what we do
and think and say
or by what we haven't done, or said;
Father, forgive us:

All: Save us and help us

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you
by temptations in the world about us
or by negativity:
Father, forgive us:

All: Save us and help us

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your son;
Father, forgive us:

All: Save us and help us

May Almighty God who sent his Son
into the world to save us
Bring us his pardon and his peace now and forever

All: Amen

1st Reading: Acts 17:22-31

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So, you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

"Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:13- end

Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." But in

your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

2nd Song: **You Give Life You Are Love**

You give life
You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope
You restore ev'ry heart that is broken
And great are You, Lord

Chorus:

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
we pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

Great are you Lord

Bridge:

And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing
great are You, Lord

*CCLI Song #6460220
2012 Integrity's Alleluia! Music*

Gospel Reading: **John 14: 15-21**

Jesus said: "If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who

loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.

Talk: Charlie Houlder-Moat

Silence may be kept

Our Belief

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All: We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

**All: This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers

Living and Loving God
You call us to be united in you
To live in your love as one people
Help us to remember that we are
Your church,
Help us to reflect your love and light
Into the world beyond the church doors
We stand on the threshold with you
But in these unprecedented times
We need your love and guidance to
Show us where that threshold is.
Come closer, Lord
as we seek to discern your will for
us, your church

in our community here in Watton and beyond.
In Jesus' name
Amen

Creator God

You made each and every one of us in your image.
We pray for all those around the world affected
by the coronavirus
We pray for government officials in every country,
but particularly here in the UK
as we are seeking to find a practical and safe
way out of lockdown.
We pray for wisdom and discernment,
for care and compassion
at this time and in the coming months
Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer

Holy Father

We pray for your churches here in Watton and Threxton
and for churches around the world,
as we look forward
in anticipation to coming together again in worship
and fellowship.
We pray that we may listen to you
over these coming weeks and months as we prepare
to return to our buildings.
We pray that we may bring with us the lessons learned over
these past months.
We give you thanks that we, as a community
have been able to stay connected.
We give you thanks for each other's help and prayers.
We praise you for always being at our centre
and we worship you as a gathered community of faith
this day.
Help us to look forward prayerfully and positively.
Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer

Living God

We pray for all those who are sick at this time
with something other than coronavirus,
For all those waiting for a diagnosis or for treatment.
We pray for the lonely,
For the bereaved
And all those who are caring for others.
We pray for all our keyworkers,
For all those returning to work,
For those who are not able to return,
For those whose future remains unclear.

We pray particularly today for 4 year-old Vinny, who is so bravely going through treatment for Leukaemia
And who still has a smile and can look up at the world and say
"What a beautiful day, Mummy"
May he be our example as we look forward together.
In a moment of quiet we lift before you
All those who have asked for our prayers....

We remember those who have died
whether recently, or some time ago
and those who mourn for them/
And we pray that all those who have gone before us
and ask that they may find with you a place of refreshment light and peace
Lord in your mercy
All: Hear our prayer

Merciful Father
**All: Accept these prayers for the sake of your son
Our Saviour, Jesus Christ
Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

**All: Our Father in heaven
Hallowed be your Name
Your Kingdom come
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours
Now and forever
Amen**

Notices

3rd Song: Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine:
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,*

Praising my Saviour all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story...

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love

This is my story...

CCLI Song #22324
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Closing words

Let us bless the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

Blessing and honour and glory
Be yours
Here and everywhere
Now and forever
All: Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
All: In the name of Christ
Amen