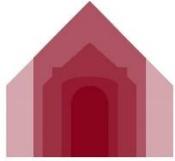


Welcoming - Worshipping - Serving



The Parish Church of St
John the Baptist
West Byfleet

Sunday 15th November 2020



An act of worship for
the Second Sunday before Advent

The Vicar writes...

As this second period of 'lockdown' begins to bite, how do we, as Christians, keep going? Personally, I find myself returning daily to Hebrews chapter 13, verse 8: 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.' It has become something of a mantra for me as, in a much-changed world, I hold to the fact that nothing about the character of God - revealed in Christ and recorded in Scripture- is changed by this pandemic.

It is true that the health crisis means that we are encountering God differently, and sharing God with the parish and local community in new ways (some of which we will want to continue in the future). But the presence and experience of the Holy Spirit means that our worship and our witness are no less authentic. Jesus Christ is with us – and He does not change.

Chris Hollingshurst

Gathering

Words of welcome

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you
All and also with you.

Let us pray together, saying

**All Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful people,
and kindle in us the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Collect (Prayer for today)

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Bible reading: 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Freed in Christ from death and sin,
slaves no more to self within,
let abundant life begin
at the call of Christ.

Out of darkness into light,
given grace to walk aright,
strength and courage for the fight,
turned to follow Christ.

In the Spirit's life to grow,
day by day his fullness know,
and in fruitful lives to show
we belong to Christ.

Bearers of his name and sign,
sharers in his bread and wine,
one with him in life divine,
keeping faith with Christ.

Praise him for his love outpoured,
lives renewed and hopes restored;
praise the everlasting Lord,
glory be to Christ!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b1926)
Tune: Charity; John Stainer (1840-1901)

Homily

Prayers of Penitence and Intercession

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven.

Knowing our unworthiness and sin,
let us ask from him both mercy and forgiveness.

Lord, you are gracious and compassionate:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

You are loving to all
and your mercy is over all your creation:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Your faithful servants bless your name
and speak of the glory of your kingdom:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

We continue in prayer, seeking the coming of God's kingdom.

You sent your Son to bring good news to the poor,
sight to the blind,
freedom to captives
and salvation to your people:
anoint us with your Spirit;
rouse us to work in his name.
Father, by your Spirit
All **bring in your kingdom.**

Send us to bring help to the poor
and freedom to the oppressed.
Father, by your Spirit
All **bring in your kingdom.**

Send us to tell the world
the good news of your healing love.
Father, by your Spirit
All **bring in your kingdom.**

Send us to those who mourn,
to bring joy and gladness instead of grief.
Father, by your Spirit
All **bring in your kingdom.**

Send us to proclaim that the time is here
for you to save your people.
Father, by your Spirit
All **bring in your kingdom.**

Lord of the Church,
hear our prayer,
and make us one in mind and heart
to serve you in Christ our Lord,
who taught us to pray, saying:

All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as 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.

Music for reflection

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at my end, and at my departing.

*Words: from a Book of Hours, Sarum 1514
Music: John Rutter (b1945)*

Closing remarks

The Blessing

May God give to you and to all those whom you love
his comfort and his peace, his light and his joy,
in this world and the next;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

All You will show me the path of life;
in your presence is the fullness of joy
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Organ voluntary

Menuetto - Impromptu (Miniature Suite for Organ)
by John Ireland (1879-1962)

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