The Parish of Wheathampstead

**St Helen’s Church**



**EaSTER EVENSONG**

10 May 2020

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**Welcome.**

For hundreds of years the service of Evensong has provided a peaceful and prayerful way of drawing aside from the concerns of the day. It is drawn from the traditional Daily Office, a spiritual practice of saying sets of prayers and bible readings at appointed times throughout the day. The origins date back to the *Latin Sarum* used in medieval times, but this well loved version was written by Thomas Cranmer in 1552. It was slightly amended in the *1662 Book of Common Prayer*, which still remains in widespread use today.

In many monastic communities around the world this tradition continues, day in, day out, uninterrupted throughout the year with up to six services each day. This is part of the monastic Rule of Life and also the outworking of the apostle Paul’s command in scripture for each Christian to ‘Pray without ceasing’ *(Thessalonians 5)*

The service includes ancient liturgy, the chanting of Psalms and canticles, as well as hymns, bible readings a sermon and prayers. In their different ways each element provides spiritual sustenance and we pray that your soul will be nourished for the coming week. For it is in quiet moments and peaceful services such as this that many of us hear God speaking and receive His grace.

May God bless you richly with His presence and His peace.

- The Ministry Team at St Helen’s Church.

Supporting Christian Aid Week this year is best done by socially distanced donations

* Online at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/wheathampstead-caweek>, which is set up for Wheathampstead Churches Together to support Christian Aid
* by telephone on  **020 7523 2269**
* by Charities Aid Foundation card through the CAF website

Our donations will help support poor and marginalised communities as they are faced by coronavirus

**Introit** *This Joyful Eastertide - Wood*

**Welcome & Opening Hymn**

 1 The day of resurrection!
 Earth, tell it out abroad;
 the Passover of gladness,
 the Passover of God;
 from death to life eternal,
 from earth unto the sky,
 our God hath brought us over
 with hymns of victory.

 2 Our hearts be pure from evil,
 that we may see aright
 the Lord in rays eternal
 of resurrection-light;
 and, listening to his accents,
 may hear so calm and plain
 his own ‘All hail’, and, hearing,
 may raise the victor strain.

 3 Now let the heavens be joyful,
 and earth her song begin,
 the round world keep high triumph,
 and all that is therein;
 let all things seen and unseen
 their notes of gladness blend,
 for Christ the Lord is risen,
 our joy that hath no end.

*John Mason Neale (1818–1866)\**

Beloved, we are come together in the presence of almighty God and of the whole company of heaven to offer unto him through our Lord Jesus Christ our worship and praise and thanksgiving; to make confession of our sins; to pray, as well for others as for ourselves, that we may know more truly the greatness of God’s love and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace; and to ask on behalf of all men such things as their well-being doth require. Wherefore let us kneel in silence, and remember God’s presence with us now.

**Confession and Absolution** *Please kneel or sit*

All Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires
of our own hearts.
We have offended against thy holy laws.
We have left undone those things
which we ought to have done;
and we have done those things
which we ought not to have done;
and there is no health in us.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.
Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults.
Restore thou them that are penitent;
according to thy promises declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesu our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy name.
Amen.

The minister stands and pronounces God’s absolution of our sins:

Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord,

to thy faithful people pardon and peace,

that they may be cleansed from all their sins,

and serve thee with a quiet mind;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

**Preces (sung)**

 O Lord, open thou our lips

All and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

 O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;

All as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

 Amen.

 Praise ye the Lord.

All The Lord’s name be praised.

**Psalm 150**

*Please be seated for the psalm which will be sung to Anglican chant. Please stand for the Gloria.*

1. O PRAISE God in his holiness: praise him in the firmament of his power.
2. Praise him in his noble acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.
3. Praise him in the sound of the trumpet: praise him upon the lute and harp.
4. Praise him in the cymbals and dances: praise him upon the strings and pipe.
5. Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals: praise him upon the loud cymbals.
6. Let every thing that hath breath: praise the Lord.

**(Please stand)** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:

 and to the Holy Ghost;

 As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
 world without end. **Amen.**

# First Reading *Zechariah 4.1-10*

The angel who talked with me came again, and wakened me, as one is wakened from sleep. He said to me, ‘What do you see?’ And I said, ‘I see a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it; there are seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it. And by it there are two olive trees, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left.’ I said to the angel who talked with me, ‘What are these, my lord?’ Then the angel who talked with me answered me, ‘Do you not know what these are?’ I said, ‘No, my lord.’ He said to me, ‘This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts. What are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain; and he shall bring out the top stone amid shouts of “Grace, grace to it!” ’

Moreover, the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ‘The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also complete it. Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel.

‘These seven are the eyes of the Lord, which range through the whole earth.’

**Magnificat (sung by the choir – Stanford in C)**

*Please remain seated but stand for the Gloria*

My soul doth magnify the Lord

and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm

he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat

and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things

and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel

 as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.

All **Amen.**

# New Testament Reading *Revelation 21.1-14*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

‘See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.’

And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death.’

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, ‘Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.’ And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. It has the glory of God and a radiance like a very rare jewel, like jasper, clear as crystal. It has a great, high wall with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites; on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

**Nunc dimittis (sung by the choir – Stanford in C)**

*Please remain seated but stand for the Gloria*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.

All **Amen.**

**The Apostles’ Creed** *We remain standing as we affirm our faith together.*

All I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried.

 He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,

 and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

**Responses (sung)**

 The Lord be with you.

All And with thy spirit.

 Let us pray. *Please kneel or sit.*

 **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

All Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us

All Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

 O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

All And grant us thy salvation.

 O Lord, save the Queen.

All And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

 Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

All And make thy chosen people joyful.

 O Lord, save thy people.

All And bless thine inheritance.

 Give peace in our time, O Lord.

All Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

 O God, make clean our hearts within us.

All And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

**The Collect of the Day**

Almighty God,

who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ

have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:

grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires,

so by your continual help

we may bring them to good effect;

through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

**The Collect for Peace**

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels,
and all just works do proceed;
give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give;
that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments,
and also that, by thee,
we being defended from the fear of our enemies
may pass our time in rest and quietness;
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

 All Amen.

**The Collect for Aid against all Perils**

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by thy great mercy defend us
from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

 All Amen.

**Choir Anthem** *Ye choirs of new Jerusalem (Stanford)*

*Please remain seated*

**Prayers**

*Please kneel or sit as we bring before God the needs of all the world.*

**Concluding Hymn**

 1 Hail, gladdening Light, of his pure glory poured
 who is the immortal Father, heavenly, blest,
 holiest of holies, Jesus Christ our Lord.

 2 Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest,
 the lights of evening round us shine,
 we hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit divine.

 3 Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung
 with undefilèd tongue,
 Son of our God, giver of life, alone:
 therefore in all the world thy glories, Lord, they own.

*John Keble (1792–1866)*

**The Ending**

*As we stand, the minister bestows God’s blessing upon us using this or a seasonal blessing:*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

and the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost,

 be with us all evermore.

*All* **Amen.**

**Organ Voluntary**