

UNITED BENEFICE OF ST MICHAEL BETCHWORTH AND ST MARY BUCKLAND  
THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY  
SUNDAY 12 JULY 2020

**The Greeting**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

**Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church  
is governed and sanctified:  
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,  
that in their vocation and ministry  
they may serve you in holiness and truth  
to the glory of your name;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.



**Hymn – *Fill your hearts with joy and gladness***

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,  
sing and praise your God and mine!  
Great the Lord in love and wisdom,  
might and majesty divine!

He who framed the starry heavens  
knows and names them as they shine.

Praise the Lord, his people, praise him!

Wounded souls his comfort know;  
those who fear him find his mercies,  
peace for pain and joy for woe;  
humble hearts are high exalted,  
human pride and power laid low.

Praise the Lord for times and seasons,  
cloud and sunshine, wind and rain;

spring to melt the snows of winter  
till the waters flow again;  
grass upon the mountain pastures,  
golden valleys thick with grain.

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,  
peace and plenty crown your days;  
love his laws, declare his judgements,  
walk in all his words and ways;  
he the Lord and we his children:  
praise the Lord, all people, praise!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)

Music: 'Regent Square' by Henry Thomas Stuart (1813-1879)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

#### **Isaiah 55, 10-13 - God waters the earth and we shall go out with joy**

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.  
For you shall go out in joy,  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

**Anthem: *Thou visitest the earth* - Maurice Greene**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-uSMbcGB6to>  
(Choir of New College, Oxford)

***Thou visitest the earth, and blessest it  
and crownest the year with thy goodness.***

**(Words from Psalm 65 which praises God for the sequence of sowing, watering and harvest)**

## Gospel:

### Matthew 13, 1-9, 18-23 – *The Parable of the Sower*

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'

'Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

## Sermon : By Canon Jay Colwill



## Prayers.

Loving God,  
We ask for the gift of your Holy Spirit  
to help us pray in this difficult times.

Lord hear us: **Lord Graciously hear us**

We ask for the energy and vision of your Spirit  
for those who are tiring in the battle against injustice and oppression:  
for those exhausted by the struggle with poverty and hunger.  
We pray for the Foodbanks, for the volunteers and those using the facility for the first time

Lord hear us: **Lord Graciously hear us**

We ask for the hope and comfort of your Spirit  
for those whose lives are overshadowed by illness or pain;  
for those whose lives are darkened by sorrow or bereavement.  
In the silence we lift before you those on our hearts at this time ....  
Lord hear us: **Lord Graciously hear us**

We ask for the love and courage of your Spirit  
for those reaching out to comfort the distressed;  
for those reaching out to others with the Good News of Christ through their words and actions which  
emanate your love

Lord hear us: **Lord Graciously hear us**

Loving God,  
We ask for the assurance of your Spirit  
to know your presence with us in our daily lives:  
in our relationships.  
in our work and service.  
in our worship.  
in our times of joy and pain.

**Merciful father accept these prayers through our Saviour Jesus Christ Amen.**

### **Blessing**

The Lord bless us and watch over us;  
The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us;  
The Lord look kindly upon us and give us peace. Amen

Our worship has now ended, and our service now begins...  
Go in the light and peace of Christ  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Organ Voluntary** Processional -William Mathias (1934-1992)



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God Bless