

UNITED BENEFICE OF ST MICHAEL BETCHWORTH AND ST MARY BUCKLAND
THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
SUNDAY 25th July 2020

The Greeting

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Collect

Merciful God,
Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
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.



HYMN - Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation:
all who hear,
now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who over all things so wondrously reigneth,
shieldeth thee gently from harm, or when fainting sustaineth:
hast thou not seen
how thy heart's wishes have been
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend thee:
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
if to the end he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen
sound from his people again:
gladly for aye we adore him!

Words: Joachim Neander (1650-1680) translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)
Music: German 17th-century melody

1st Reading

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b - Give thanks to God, sing praises to him and seek his presence

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him,
and speak of all his marvellous works.
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
Search for the Lord and his strength;
continually seek his face.
Remember the marvels he has done,
his wonders and the judgements of his mouth.
O offspring of Abraham his servant,
O children of Jacob his chosen.
He is the Lord our God;
his judgments prevail in all the world.
He has always been mindful of his covenant,
The promise he made for a thousand generations:
The covenant he made with Abraham
The oath that he swore to Isaac,
Which he established as a statute for Jacob,
an everlasting covenant for Israel,
Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan
To be your allotted inheritance.'
[Alleluia!]

Jesu, joy of man's desiring - J S Bach (1685-1750)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=doJ2Fd6JRpQ>

(Bishops Stortford College)

*Jesu, joy of man's desiring,
Holy wisdom, love most bright,
Drawn by thee, our souls aspiring,
Soar to uncreated light.*

*Word of God our flesh that fashioned,
with the fire of life impassioned,
Striving still to truth unknown,*

Soaring, dying round thy throne.

*Through the way where hope is guiding,
Hark, what peaceful music rings,
Where the flock in thee confiding,
drink of joy from deathless springs.*

*Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure,
theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure.
Thou dost ever lead thine own
in the love of joys unknown.*

Words: Martin Jahn (1620-1682) translated Robert Bridges (1844-1930)

Music: J S Bach (1685-1750)

Gospel:

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 - Parable of the mustard seed, yeast, treasure and a pearl and a fish

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Sermon : By Revd Anna Moore



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 30 Kleine Choralvorspiele, Op.135a No 5 'Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott'
(A mighty fortress is our God) - Max Reger (1873-1916)



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God Bless

