

14th March 2021

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#### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our Morning Worship here at the Parish churches of Coxley with Godney, Henton, and Wookey. Although we cannot meet together physically, it is hoped that following this liturgy, knowing that others in the benefice will be doing so at the same time, might help provide a spiritual connection between us and bring about a sense of community between the followers of Jesus Christ.

It is suggested that alongside this liturgy you have a means to listen to the suggested hymns which have links to videos with lyrics within this document. If you do not know the tune then why not listen to the hymn/song and worship through reading the words alone.

The service is designed to used easily by one person. If there is more than one person participating, either one can lead with others joining in with the responses in **bold** OR everyone present may join in with all the words.

The sections in *red italics* are rubrics: these explain what needs to happen at various points.

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# MORNING WORSHIP

# **GREETING**

Praise God! For even though we are apart the Lord is in our midst! Let us rejoice and be glad and give him the glory.

# **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Though we cannot be present with our church community, we rejoice that Christ is in our midst, he is with us always, until the end of the age!

Matthew 28:20

**HYMN: FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH**Listen here

# **CONFESSION AND WORDS OF COMFORT**

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world and knows our every word and deed.
Let us then open ourselves to the Lord and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you.
We are not worthy to be called your children.
We turn to you again.
Have mercy on us,
bring us back to yourself as those who once were dead
but now have life through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# A period of silent reflection follows

Hear the words of comfort, our Saviour Christ says to all who truly turn to him:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

#### COLLECT

Let us pray.

# A period of silent prayer is kept.

Merciful Lord,
you know our struggle to serve you:
when sin spoils our lives
and overshadows our hearts,
come to our aid
and turn us back to you again;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### Amen.

#### THE WORD OF GOD

Hear what God is saying to his people according to the letter of 1 Thessalonians.

5 We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labour among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, <sup>13</sup> and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. <sup>14</sup> And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. <sup>15</sup> See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. <sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup> Abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Brothers, pray for us. <sup>26</sup> Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss. <sup>27</sup> I put you under oath before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers. <sup>28</sup> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

#### THE SERMON

Download the sermon for this week <u>here</u>.

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

# **INTERCESSIONS**

Use the silence between each prayer to bring before God your own concerns around that topic.

Jesus, our exalted Lord, has made it possible for our prayers to be brought directly before God. Trusting in this, let us bring our intercessions before God.

Loving God, our heavenly Father, in our worship today we say thank you for all mothers and those who are like mothers to us and for all that they do for us.

But we also know that for some people this is a difficult day. We pray that you will draw alongside those who are hurting today, to comfort them, and surround them with your tender care.

### Silence is kept.

Lord, in your mercy,

#### hear our prayer.

We pray for those who grieve because they are unable to have children they so long to hold and love; for those mothers who grieve because, like Mary, they have had to see their child die too soon; for mothers who mourn because they are cut off from their children by disappointment, anger or bitterness; and for mothers who are worried or afraid for their child's well-being or safety.

We ask you, heavenly Father, to bring healing and wholeness into the hearts and minds of hurting mothers today.

# Silence is kept.

Lord, in your mercy,

# hear our prayer.

We pray for those for children who grieve because they have lost their mother through illness, accident or violence; for children who for one reason or another, have been separated from their mothers; for children who are still living in homes that are unsafe and with adults who cannot put the child's needs before their own; for children who through hardship and poverty are not being provided with an adequate diet or basic medical care.

We ask you, heavenly Father, to bring love and security, courage, and hope into the lives of hurting children today.

# Silence is kept.

Lord, in your mercy,

#### hear our prayer.

We ask you heavenly Father, to bring healing and forgiveness into the lives of all those for whom today brings back painful memories of broken relationships and loss.

Help us all to find in our brothers and sisters of Christ a loving family with whom we may show your love and tender care for all your hurting children.

# Silence is kept.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We ask all this of you, O God, knowing that you are our hope and our salvation, a very present help in times of trouble, and the One whose purpose is to grant and new and abundant life to us and our world. Praise be to your name. **Amen**.

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

God in Community, Holy in One,

May we see you, hear you, and know you as we move through this Lenten season, even as we pray as Jesus has taught us, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.
Amen

# **HYMN: BE THOU MY VISION**

Listen here

#### DISMISSAL

Go now with God, on your journey through Lent; Go now with Jesus, walking wherever he leads; Go now with the Spirit, who encourages us on our journey.

And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.** 

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