

Morning Worship



07 June 2020

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our Morning Worship here at the Parish churches of Coxley with Godney, Henton, and Wookey. Although we are currently apart due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) 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.

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. There is a mixture of traditional hymns and contemporary worship songs. 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 be 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.

Materials in this booklet are drawn from *Common Worship: Times and Seasons* which is copyright © The Archbishop's Council of the Church of England 2006; *New Patterns for Worship* copyright © The Archbishop's Council of the Church of England 2002. All Bible quotations are from the English Standard Version.

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

The Lord is here!
His Spirit is with us!

Though we find ourselves isolated
in homes, apartments, and residential places,
**we look out our windows and remember,
the heavens declare the glory of God,
all creation rejoices in our creator.**

Psalm 19:1

Though we cannot reach out and touch
our friends and neighbours,
**we rejoice that Christ is in our midst,
he is with us always, until the end of the age!**

Matthew 28:20

Though we have to stand at a safe distance from others,
giving space to those who pass us by,
**we recall we are all made in the image of God,
connected to one another,
connected to God.**

Genesis 1:27

HYMN: ALL PEOPLE THAT ON EARTH DO DWELL

[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 to our God who is three-in-one, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

A period of silent prayer is kept.

Holy God,
faithful and unchanging:
enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth,
and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,
that we may truly worship you,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever.
Amen.

HYMN: PERFECT WISDOM OF OUR GOD

[Listen here](#)

THE WORD OF GOD

Hear what God is saying to his people according to the Book of Exodus.

16 They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. ² And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, ³ and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. ⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” ⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “At evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against the Lord. For what are we, that you grumble against us?” ⁸ And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the Lord has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the Lord.”

⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, ‘Come near before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling.’” ¹⁰ And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ And the Lord said to Moses, ¹² “I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

¹³ In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. ¹⁴ And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

THE SERMON

By Revd Guy Martin-Scott

It seems a long time ago when lock-down first started eleven weeks ago. Back at the start of lock-down we were faced with unprecedented levels of products being absent from our supermarket shelves as people hoarded all sorts of things. Some of the missing items made sense – cleaning products, soap, and disinfectant would stop COVID getting into your home. Others such as rice, pasta, and chopped tomatoes I could just about get my head around – you don't want to be without your favourite food if you're stuck in isolation. But I never got my head around why there was such a need for toilet paper? Is there a symptom of Coronavirus that I am not aware of that might require copious amounts of loo roll?!

Thankfully, things in the supermarkets seem to be getting somewhat back to normal now but these shortages did get me thinking. What was driving force behind such a rush on these products? And I realised it was fear. Fear that you or a loved one might get ill, fear that you won't have anything to eat, fear that you never got a bidet installed in your bathroom... All these fears can be grouped together under the category of a lack of provision – afraid that when you most need something you won't have it.

This was never a problem for 1980s TV action hero MacGyver who always managed to get out of life or death situations using only what was on hand. For example he once made a defibrillator out of candlesticks, a microphone cord, and a rubber mat. Now, obviously this was slightly absurd but when we are faced with a need and don't have the resources to deal with it don't we wish we could

“MacGyver” up a solution ourselves?

But even if we had the fantastic abilities of MacGyver, that would only provide a solution to that initial need: creating a delicious soup out of leftover vegetables meets our hunger, using a courgette and a spiraliser to make courgetti spaghetti solves a pasta shortage, and the toilet paper - I'll leave that to your own imaginations! These solutions meet our needs but doing a MacGyver cannot solve that underlying fear we will feel the next time we are in need, it won't address the fear of not having something when we most need it.

Well, as we look at our reading from today from the book of Exodus, we see that God can not only address our initial needs but also that deeper fear too. In our reading, Moses is leading God's people through the desert. But, as you can imagine, walking for a long time makes you hungry! And the Israelites didn't have a lot of supplies with them as they had escaped to the desert from Egypt in a rush. So, they behaved like anyone does when they're hungry – they got grumpy! They started moaning that their life was better in Egypt where they were slaves because at least they had food there! They even wished that God had killed them in Egypt - anything was better than the hunger they were experiencing! And so, in response to their grumblings, God promises and provides the Israelites with manna from heaven, a bread-like substance, as well as quail for meat so that the Israelites are provided for. Their need for physical nourishment is met by God.

Now I know that when we are hungry God doesn't just place a meal before us like he did for the Israelites in the desert but he does provide for us in other ways, through his representatives on earth. It is through Christian run foodbanks that people who do not know how they are going to put food on the table are provided for and I believe it is God who stirs up people's hearts to donate to these. God still provides for us today - just in less obviously miraculous ways. So before try and MacGyver something up to get ourselves out of a desperate situation we should firstly look to God who provides for us. In Matthew's Gospel we hear these words from Jesus who says “But

if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." God will provide for us today just as he did for the Israelites in the desert be it through a miracle from heaven or through the people of his church – God provides.

But God does not just meet our immediate needs, he address that deeper fear as well. God does this because he is faithful to his people. We can trust in God's provision because he is a God who keeps his promises. All through the Bible we see God keeping his promises. God had promised that he would lead the Israelites out of the desert and into a land that he would give them – this promise was kept later in the book of Exodus. God promised a saviour who would restore humanity's relationship with God and God provided such a saviour in Jesus Christ so that those who put their trust in him will have the gift of eternal life. As a God who keeps his promises he meets that fear we have about not having what we need, because God is faithful we have nothing to fear for he will meet our needs.

God provides for his people and will continue to provide for them, so although we might not be able to see how our needs might be met when we are self-isolating or struggling to put food on the table, or desperately seeking toilet paper God knows what we need, and we can trust that in him, a solution will be found, God will provide.

HYMN: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD (UNSHAKEABLE)

[Listen here.](#)

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.

We come boldly to the throne of grace,
praying to the almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
for mercy and grace.

We plead before your throne in heaven.

Father of heaven, whose love profound
a ransom for our souls was found:
We pray for the world, created by your love,
for its nations and governments...

Silence is kept

Extend to them your peace, pardoning love, mercy, and grace.

We plead before your throne in heaven.

Almighty Son, incarnate Word,
our Prophet, Priest, Redeemer, Lord:
We pray for the Church, created for your glory,
for its ministry to reflect those works of yours...

Silence is kept

Extend to us your salvation, growth, mercy, and grace.

We plead before your throne in heaven.

Eternal Spirit, by whose breath

the soul is raised from sin and death:

We pray for families and individuals, created in your image,
for the lonely, the bereaved, the sick and the dying...

Silence is kept

Breathe on them the breath of life

and bring them to your mercy and grace.

We plead before your throne in heaven.

Thrice holy! Father, Spirit, Son,

Mysterious Godhead, Three in One:

We pray for ourselves,

for your Church, for all whom we remember before you...

Silence is kept

Bring us all to bow before your throne in heaven,

to receive life and pardon, mercy and grace for all eternity,
as we worship you saying,

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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: THE GOD OF ABRAHAM PRAISE

[Listen here.](#)

DISMISSAL

God the Father,
who first loved us and made us accepted in the beloved Son,
bless you.

God the Son,
who loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood,
bless you.

God the Holy Spirit,
who sheds abroad the love of God in our hearts,
bless you.

The blessing of the one true God,
to whom be all love and all glory for time and for eternity,
come down upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.