

Morning Worship

5 July 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: CHRIST OUR HOPE IN LIFE AND DEATH

[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.

Gracious Father,
by the obedience of Jesus
you brought salvation to our wayward world:
draw us into harmony with your will,
that we may find all things restored in him,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

HYMN: LOOK AND SEE

[Listen here](#)

THE WORD OF GOD

Hear what God is saying to his people according to the Gospel of John

2 On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. ³ When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” ⁴ And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” ⁵ His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

⁶ Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. ⁹ When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.” ¹¹ This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

A REFLECTION

By Kizzy Harris

With the easing of lockdown this weekend I've heard a lot of comments from people “needing” all sorts of things: they *need* to get out for a meal, or they *need* to get out for a pint or they *need* to getaway to Spain for a holiday. Television and magazine adverts are also trying to convince us of what we apparently need.

This is in stark contrast with what we read in John's Gospel about Jesus' first miracle - the turning of water into wine at the wedding in Cana in Galilee. Through his actions at Cana, Jesus' revealed a new message, this message was not that we needed more, as the world would have us believe, but rather that we needed transforming.

On first reading it's easy to see this record as merely a lovely story, an account of Jesus having compassion and sparing the blushes and humiliation of the bride's father who had run out of wine. And Jesus does do that, he saves the day. Weddings at that time were about honour. Back in those times a Father would have set aside a batch of wine every year after his daughter had been born for her wedding. This meant that that by the time she wed some 16 years later he would have had some well aged bottles to serve. These would have been poured first and then the "less mature" came out once people were merry enough not to notice. Jesus saves the day because he provides wine for the party when even the "less mature" wine is all gone - and we all know you can't have a wedding party without wine!

However, upon deeper reading there is so much more this story has to tell us. Through the symbolic events and actions within this passage we see that this passage is also talking about the kind of person Jesus is and his power to bring about transformation.

I don't think it's a coincidence that the reading starts with "On the third day" for example, which correlates with the 3 days of Jesus' death and resurrection. The ultimate transformation. But further symbols are there too:

- Jesus was at a wedding. A ceremony that celebrates the transformation of two lives being joined together and transformed into one new union.
- The main focus of the story, the wine, represents transformation as grapes turn into wine.
- The old pots used for carrying water for the ritual washing to purify things are transformed into jugs of the best wine. This symbolises the old covenant being transformed by Jesus - something that we remember in our communion services with the taking of the bread and wine.
- Jesus involving the servants and not the master in the miracle itself could be seen as a transformation of societal norms - the last shall in fact be first.

- And finally we see how these the empty vessels were filled up again right to the brim with Jesus transforming the water into a limitless supply of the very best wine.

The turning of water into wine, the first miracle of Christ is rich in symbolism and transformation. Jesus is not like an advert in the paper or on the television, for although he came to meet our need for salvation he didn't come telling us what we needed. Rather, he came to totally transform the way we think and act and live as a society.

Jesus says "I have come to give you life and life in all its fullness." This is the transformation that he offers all of us. Our lives can be transformed by Jesus as he replaces the needs in our lives with the assurance of his love and provision - just as he did all those years ago at a wedding in Cana.

So in these current challenging times, if you sense your own resources are running out, that all you thought you had stored up and prepared for has been used up, I encourage you to re-read this story for yourself and draw comfort and strength from God's limitless resource of love and compassion for us and to be secure in the knowledge that his power to transform and bring new life is just as relevant today as it was then.

HYMN: THINE BE THE GLORY

[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.

Jesus, our exalted Lord, has been given all authority.
Let us seek his intercession that our prayers may be perfected
by his prayer.

Jesus Christ, great high priest,
living for ever to intercede for us,
pray for the Church and its leaders, your broken body in the world...

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, King of righteousness,
enthroned at the right hand of the majesty on high,
pray for the world and its leaders, and make it subject to your gentle rule...

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Son of Man,
drawing humanity into the life of God,
pray for your sisters and brothers in need, distress, or sorrow...

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus, pioneer of our salvation,
bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection,
surround with your saints and angels
those who have died trusting your promises...

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things,
ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe,
pray for us who receive the gifts you give us for work in your service...

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ,
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at your feet;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **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: LORD FOR THE YEARS

[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.