

Morning Worship



Spiritual Communion

7th 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.

This spiritual connection does not only exist between each believer but also with God himself. Normally, we would celebrate that connection by the service of Holy Communion, the sharing of bread and wine, also known as the Eucharist. However, due to being unable to meet with each other to share this meal we have instead a Spiritual Communion - sharing the inward grace of Holy Communion without receiving the outward form where the believer is desirous to partake of it.

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.

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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: WE HAVE A GOSPEL TO PROCLAIM

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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.

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek that perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

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

5¹ Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵ For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

THE SERMON

Download the sermon for this week [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.

The death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus has removed all barriers between us and God; so let us pray with confidence knowing that he hears us and answers us.

Heavenly Father, who created this world and will one day renew it, we pray for your creation and all who dwell in it.

We ask that you might guide all who govern, bless them with wisdom and compassion for your world; help them to make good decisions as countries around the world continue to deal with the ongoing effects of the coronavirus.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, having lived as a man you experienced the highs and lows of life just as we do.

We thank you that you journey alongside us in the rich tapestry of

life that we experience,
that you join us in our celebrations and console us when we weep.
We pray for all who are struggling at this time;
we ask that you might raise them if they are low,
heal them if they are sick,
and encourage them in their faith, that they might know you are
with them.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Holy Spirit, you move like a wind across the face of the earth;
may your powerful presence transform this world making it more
and more into your kingdom.
Empower us, as God's people, to bring the light of Christ to our
communities through words of compassion and acts of love and faith.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, accept these prayers, on
behalf of your faithful people. 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.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in the grave, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast

.Psalm 139.7-10

Jesus says,
Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking;
if you hear my voice and open the door,
I will come in to you and eat with you,
and you with me.

Revelation 3.20

Lord our God
you prepare a table before us
and, although we cannot be present at your Holy Eucharist,
by your grace, open our hearts to receive
the gift of your Son, the Word made flesh:

Who, on the night that he was betrayed
took bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying
take, eat, this is my body which is given for you,
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way after supper, he took the cup
he gave it to them saying,
drink this all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins,
do this in remembrance of me.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us
that, though separated by distance,
we may still, through faith, be partakers in the benefits
of Christ's offering of his body and his blood.
This we ask, through the same Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

*A time of silence follows, as each person present makes their own
spiritual communion with God concluding by saying:*

Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

HYMN: LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

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DISMISSAL

*'Remember, I am with you
to the end of the age,' says the Lord.*

Matthew 28.20

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, evermore. **Amen.**