

Sunday 14th February 2021 **Sunday next before Lent**

United Benefice of Frittenden with Sissinghurst

Hope and Healing through Meeting Jesus: Hubert Ashton

Accessible online or phone 01580 234185 (local rate) which plays the most recent service whatever time you call

*In darkness and in light, in trouble and in joy, help us, heavenly Father, to trust your love,
to serve your purpose and to praise your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

A very warm welcome!

We praise God as we sing:

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come,
It was grace that brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease
I shall possess within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

When I've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun,
I've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when I first begun.

[Music - The Best Hymns Album In the World, St. Michael's Singers]

*We confess our sins to our gracious God
who is full of forgiveness*

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours
as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

John 3 v 16

God loves you!

**For God so loved the world that
he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him
shall not perish but
have eternal life**

We praise God as we sing:

1. What love could remember,
no wrongs we have done
Omniscient all-knowing, He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea, without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

2. What patience would wait,
as we constantly roam
What Father so tender, is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

*Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more*

3. What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

[Music - Sovereign Grace Music & Bob Kauflin]

We declare our belief in God

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore, God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

We listen to God's Word: Penny Durie
Song of Solomon 2: 8-13, 8:6-7

8 Listen! My beloved!

Look! Here he comes,
leaping across the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

9 My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.

Look! There he stands behind our wall,
gazing through the windows,
peering through the lattice.

10 My beloved spoke and said to me,
'Arise, my darling,
my beautiful one, come with me.

11 See! The winter is past;
the rains are over and gone.

12 Flowers appear on the earth;
the season of singing has come,
the cooing of doves
is heard in our land.

13 The fig-tree forms its early fruit; the
blossoming vines spread their fragrance.
Arise, come, my darling;
my beautiful one, come with me.'

6 Place me like a seal over your heart,
like a seal on your arm;
for love is as strong as death,
its jealousy unyielding as the grave.
It burns like blazing fire,
like a mighty flame.

7 Many waters cannot quench love;
rivers cannot sweep it away.
If one were to give
all the wealth of one's house for love,
it would be utterly scorned.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

We praise God as we sing

1. We cannot measure how you heal
or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds
where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to life
and cradle children yet unborn.

2. The pain that will not go away,
the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds,
are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends
the hurt we never hoped to find,
the private agonies inside,
the memories that haunt the mind.

3. So some have come who need your help
and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the world
are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here
to mend the body, mind and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain,
and make your broken people whole.

[Music - Hymns from England Salisbury Cathedral Choir]



We listen to God's Word: Mark 5:21-43
Peter Braggins

²¹ And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. ²² Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet ²³ and implored him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live." ²⁴ And he went with him.

And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. ²⁵ And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, ²⁶ and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. ²⁸ For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." ²⁹ And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease.

³⁰ And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my garments?" ³¹ And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'" ³² And he looked round to see who had done it. ³³ But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

³⁵ While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" ³⁶ But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe."

³⁷ And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. ³⁸ They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ And when he had entered, he said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping." ⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Talitha cumi", which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise."

⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. ⁴³ And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.



By Eliora & family - remembering Molly, their much-loved pony

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hope and healing through Meeting Jesus –
Hubert Ashton

'Don't fear, only believe.' Jesus' words are for us too! He knows that naturally-speaking we too are high on fear, and low on belief. Belief in Jesus, in reality, is as simple as 'developing a pattern of giving the truths about his glorious kingdom of justice and peace more air time than anything else.'

THIS WEEK:

- Set aside some time to sit with Jesus and bring your fears and anxieties out into the open. He knows them already - and who better than him to handle them!
- And decide on one concrete step you're going to take to give Jesus' Kingdom 'more air time', put it in your schedule, and enjoy reduced fears and increased confidence and belief in Christ.

We use Psalm 27 to remind each other of who we are in the light of who God is

- 1 The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?
- 2 When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.**



3 Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

4 One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

5 For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.

6 Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

7 Hear my voice when I call, Lord; be merciful to me and answer me.

8 My heart says of you, 'Seek his face!' Your face, Lord, I will seek.

9 Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me, God my Saviour.

10 Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.

11 Teach me your way, Lord; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.

12 Do not hand me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, spouting malicious accusations.

13 I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

14 Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. Thanks be to God

THE ARCHBISHOPS' 6PM CARE SQUARE

PRAYER FOR THE NATION

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have invited all to join in Prayer for the Nation. The suggestion is that as many of us as possible unite to do this at 6pm each day.

Sunday	Family, friends and loved ones
Monday	Schools and colleges, children and young people
Tuesday	Elderly, isolated and vulnerable
Wednesday	Businesses, the workplace and economic wellbeing
Thursday	The NHS and other key workers
Friday	National and local government
Saturday	All who are grieving and all suffering with physical and mental ill-health

We turn to God who hears and answers prayer

Frederick Higgs

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory

are yours now and for ever. **Amen**

We praise God as we sing

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining

In the midst of the darkness, shining

Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us

Set us free by the truth you now bring us

Shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine

Fill this land with the Father's glory

Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire

Flow, river, flow

Flood the nations with grace and mercy

Send forth your word

Lord, and let there be light

2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence

From the shadows into your radiance

By the blood I may enter your brightness

Search me, try me, consume all my darkness

Shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine...

3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness

So our faces display your likeness

Ever changing from glory to glory

Mirrored here may our lives tell your story

Shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine...

[Music - Hymns Ancient & Modern, St. Michael's Singers]

We speak out and hear God's blessing over us

before virtual tea/coffee

To a troubled world - **peace from Christ.**

To a searching world - **love from Christ.**

To a waiting world - **hope from Christ.**

Music played in the recording in accordance with PRS for Music, www.prsformusic.com

Words from *Common Worship: Services & Prayers for the Church of*

England (2000). Used by permission

Bible passages NCV biblegateway.com

Apples of Gold...

1 John 3:16-18

This is how we know what love is:
Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.
And we ought to lay down our lives
for our brothers and sisters.

Zoom Details (Password if required is 333)

Virtual Coffee from just before 11am: **352 987 984**

Or dial 0330 088 5830, then **352 987 984** followed by #.

Still unsure, please call Pete who'd be delighted to talk
you through how it works.

If you can hear but can't be heard, try pressing * [star] 6

Today

11am Virtual tea/coffee *via zoom/dial-in*

The Week Ahead

Half Term - instead of Home-United groups all
warmly welcome for the Ash Wednesday service

Wed 17th *SPACE available online*

2pm Ash Wednesday *via zoom/dial-in*

2-5pm Private Prayer at St Mary's

Next Sunday

Sun 21st 10am Joint Benefice: service online or
via 234185, followed by...

11am Virtual tea/coffee with our preacher
Archdeacon Andrew Sewell *via zoom/dial-in*

St Valentine gave his life for others.

Without immediate funding and key lifesaving
Interventions, more than 6000 under 5s could
die **a day** due to the direct impact of Covid.

More info at unicef.org about how you
could help deliver 2 billion vaccines

to those most in need. **Or**

call 0330 3305699

to donate.

2pm

17th February

via zoom/dial in

Do join our simple

Ash Wednesday

service for readings

and reflections to

begin our journey

towards Easter.

A glass of water and

a candle/matches

will be handy.

If you have

some ash and

olive oil to hand that's

great - but not

essential!



'CONTENTMENT' is
this year's Lent Course
where we will be
exploring Jesus'
promise that anyone
who believes in Him
will never again
hunger or thirst.

Do zoom in **8pm Wed
24th or 10am Thu 25th,**
or join us by phone –
call Pete on 852275
if you need help...