

“Within these walls let no-one be a stranger”

November 8th 2020



Prelude: Benedictus, Alec Rowley

Call to Worship and Approach to God

God is our refuge and our strength,
a timely help in trouble.

**Come, see what the Lord has done
in every part of the wide world
he puts an end to war**

He breaks the bow, he snaps the spear,
he burns the shield in the fire.

**Stop fighting: learn that I am God,
exalted among the nations,
exalted in the earth. *Psalm 46: 1,8-11***

❖ Hymn 6 (Psalm 9):

1. God shall endure for aye; he has
for judgment set his throne
to rule the nations equally,
justice to give each one.
2. God also will a refuge be
for those who are oppressed;
a refuge he will be in times
of trouble to distressed.

3. And they who know your name, in you
their confidence will place:
for you have not forsaken them
who truly seek your face.
4. Sing then, sing praises to the Lord
on Zion's sacred hill;
let all the earth be made aware
of God's work and God's will.

❖ Prayers of approach (ending with the Lord's prayer)

Our Father, which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Word of God

❖ Children's address

❖ Introduction to the silence:

They shall grow not old
as we are that left grow old,
age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
we will remember them.

All: We will remember them.

The Silence & Prayer

❖ **Music:** *Their Bodies Are Buried in Peace,* G.F. Handel

❖ **Holy Scripture:** Matthew 25:1-13

25 “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ 7 Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 9 But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. 11 Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ 12 But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ 13 Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

❖ **Hymn:** The kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Come, Lord, and open in us the gates of your kingdom.

❖ **Sermon**

Followed by pause for reflection

Response to God’s Word

❖ **Hymn 715:**

1 Behold, the mountain of the Lord
in latter days shall rise,
on mountain-tops, above the hills,
and draw the wondering eyes.

2 To this the joyful nations round,
all tribes and tongues, shall flow;
up to the hill of God, they’ll say,
and to his house, we’ll go.

3. The beam that shines from Zion’s hill
shall lighten every land;
the King who reigns in Salem’s towers
shall all the world command.

4 Among the nations he shall judge;
his judgements truth shall guide;
his sceptre shall protect the just,
and quell the sinner’s pride.

5 No strife shall rage, nor hostile feuds
disturb those peaceful years;
to ploughshares men shall beat their swords,
to pruning-hooks their spears.

6 No longer hosts, encountering hosts,
shall crowds of saints deplore
they hang the trumpet in the hall,
and study war no more.

7 Come then, O house of Jacob! come
to worship at his shrine;
and, walking in the light of God,
with holy beauties shine.

❖ **Prayers of Intercession**

❖ **Music:** *God so loved the world*, John Stainer

❖ **Prayer of dedication**

Gracious God,
you offer us hope for our troubled world.
**Take and use us and these offerings
for the coming of your realm
of justice and peace. Amen**

❖ **Hymn 706:**

1. For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.
2. Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.
3. All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.
4. You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

❖ **Sending out with blessing** (*followed by sung Amen*)

Postlude: Prelude on 'Turn Back, O Man', H. Alexander Matthews

Holy Scripture is read this morning by Pat Beattie; prayers of intercession are led by Sally Stone.

A very warm WELCOME to all!

This week's activities:

- **Sunday, 21.00 hrs:**
Short evening prayers, **Compline:** *join at*
<https://zoom.us/j/91386497205?pwd=YUN5dnRLOWlybHDSV250aHdJcnhiQT09>
Password: 243960.
- **Monday, 14.00-16.00 hrs:**
Knitting Christmas angels at the church. *Contact* gillian.walker.ams@icloud.com
- **Tuesday, 08.45 hrs:**
Psalm Reciting (this week – Psalm 144-150). Please note this is not currently being held at the church, but you are welcome to recite these psalms from home either at 8.45 on Tuesday morning or some other time.
- **Wednesday, 19.30 hrs:**
Zoom Bible Study, following a series on the parables. *All welcome. Join us at:*
<https://zoom.us/j/92316847530?pwd=TjdObHBvcnVTRWM4bWprS2QrenBnQT09>.
- **Thursday, 21.00 hrs:** Short evening prayers, Compline: *join at*
<https://zoom.us/j/91386497205?pwd=YUN5dnRLOWlybHDSV250aHdJcnhiQT09>
- **Prayer:** anyone in special need of prayer for themselves or for someone else, please contact Margaret Richards on margaretanne_richards@hotmail.com.

ALSO:

Pastor Lance is planning soon to run again his 'Walk Through the Bible', a four session course for those considering Church Membership, baptism, confirmation, or for those who just want a refresher course in the Christian faith or a better understanding of the Bible. Contact him (see below) if you are interested.

Church Contacts (See profiles of our elders in the church entrance)

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Don't forget to connect with the church online for all the latest news and information:



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