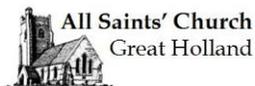




Morning Service

Sunday 2 August 2020



Responses and Prayer of Praise

Hebrews 12v2

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them up to the Lord!**

Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down!

Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure unbounded love Thou art;

Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into every troubled breast!

Let us all in Thee inherit, Let us find Thy promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;

End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, Almighty to deliver, Let us all Thy grace receive;

Suddenly return, and never, Never more Thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,

Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

4. Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;

Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee!

Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place;

Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love and praise.

Confession

Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of our forgiveness

Titus 3v5-6

he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour,

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Words of Thanks and Praise

Psalm 48

Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain. It is beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth.

Like the utmost heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion, the city of the Great King.

God is in her citadels; he has shown himself to be her fortress.

When the kings joined forces, when they advanced together, they saw her and were astounded; they fled in terror.

Trembling seized them there, pain like that of a woman in labour.

You destroyed them like ships of Tarshish shattered by an east wind.

As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD Almighty, in the city of our God: God makes her secure for ever.

Within your temple, O God, we meditate on your unfailing love.

Like your name, O God, your praise reaches to the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with righteousness.

Mount Zion rejoices, the villages of Judah are glad because of your judgments. Walk about Zion, go round her, count her towers, consider well her ramparts, view her citadels, that you may tell of them to the next generation. For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end.

Words of belief (please stand)

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**means universal*

Bible Reading

Acts 6v1-15

¹ *In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.* ² *So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables."* ³ *Brothers, choose seven*

men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷ So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸ Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. ⁹ Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)--Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia. These men began to argue with Stephen,¹⁰ but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.

¹¹ Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak words of blasphemy against Moses and against God."

¹² So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. ¹³ They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. ¹⁴ For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us."

¹⁵ All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon – Acts 6v1-15

- The new church has faced a number of problems – Persecution, Corruption and now Distraction.
- But the apostles act to make sure the important ministry the word of God and the important ministry of service both continue.
- And the church act in choosing 7 Greek Jews to maintain unity.

Prayers

Prayer for China – We pray for the Christian church in China, some facing extra restrictions after Coronavirus and we pray for the Christians to continue to walk with him, to share his life and for his church to continue to grow and increase his Kingdom on earth. We also pray for the international community to work together to stop the persecution and harsh treatment of all minorities in China as well as their oppressive actions in Hong Kong.

Prayer for Frinton Mission – all the technical aspects will run smoothly and that internet connections will not falter / no one who would like to be involved will miss out due to not knowing that FM is online / many will visit the website to plug into all aspects of the mission that will cater for every age / the Holy Spirit will be poured out on all the endeavours to make the Lord Jesus Christ known / even after FM 2020 is over, the videos will continue to reach people with the message of God's love for them

Covid-19 - Heavenly Father, as the easing of the restrictions slow, please give wisdom & skill to scientists, advisors & our government. We pray for our local businesses that they will be supported & helped in difficult times. We continue to pray for our & other churches as we are unable to meet as we would wish.

Prayer for the Day – Almighty God, whose never-failing providence governs everything in heaven and on earth, humbly we ask you to remove all that is hurtful & to give that which is profitable to us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord's Prayer - 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, & the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to his feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who like you his praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia! praise the everlasting King.

2. Praise him for his grace and favour to our fathers in distress;
praise him, still the same as ever, slow to blame and swift to bless;
Alleluia, alleluia! glorious in his faithfulness.

3. Father-like, he tends and spares us, All our hopes and fears he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes:
Alleluia, alleluia! widely as his mercy flows.

4. Angels, help us to adore him; you behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him, praise him all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia! praise with us the God of grace.

Blessing

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fulness of God.

Ephesians 3v17-19