

# ST JOHN'S CHURCH, RANMOOR



**All Age Holy Communion**  
**7<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

## **Hymn All my hope**

All my hope on God is founded;  
he doth still my trust renew,  
me through change and chance he guideth,  
only good and only true.  
God unknown, he alone  
calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory,  
sword and crown betray his trust;  
what with care and toil he buildeth,  
tower and temple fall to dust.  
But God's power, hour by hour,  
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,  
deep his wisdom, passing thought:  
splendour, light and life attend him,  
beauty springeth out of naught.  
Evermore from his store  
newborn worlds rise and adore.

Still from earth to God eternal  
sacrifice of praise be done,  
high above all praises praising  
for the gift of Christ, his Son.  
Christ doth call one and all:  
ye who follow shall not fall.

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

## **Prayer of Preparation**

**All**

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Confession

Jesus bore our sins on the cross, so that we might be free. Let us confess our sins together.

### *Using our hands*

Thumb – the bad things we have done and the good we have not done

Forefinger – the times when we have pointed out the mistakes of others rather than ourselves

Middle finger – the times when we have been rude

Ring finger – the times when we have hurt the people we love

Little finger – the times when we have neglected ourselves

## Absolution

May the God of love bring us back to himself,

forgive us our sins

and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*

**Amen.**

### *Bible readings are from 'The Message'*

#### **First Reading Exodus 20.1-17**

God spoke all these words:

I am God, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of a life of slavery.

No other gods, only me.

No carved gods of any size, shape, or form of anything whatever, whether of things that fly or walk or swim.

Don't bow down to them and don't serve them because I am God, your God, and I'm a most jealous God, punishing the children for any sins their parents pass on to them to the third, and yes, even to the fourth generation of those who hate me.

But I'm unswervingly loyal to the thousands who love me and keep my commandments.

No using the name of God, your God, in curses or silly banter; God won't put up with the irreverent use of his name.

Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Work six days and do everything you need to do.

But the seventh day is a Sabbath to God, your God. Don't do any work - not you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your servant, nor your maid, nor your animals, not even the foreign guest visiting in your town.

For in six days God made Heaven, Earth, and sea, and everything in them; he rested on the seventh day. Therefore God blessed the Sabbath day; he set it apart as a holy day.

Honour your father and mother so that you'll live a long time in the land that God, your God, is giving you.

No murder.

No adultery.

No stealing.

No lies about your neighbour.  
No lusting after your neighbour's house - or wife or servant or maid or ox or donkey.  
Don't set your heart on anything that is your neighbour's.

*All*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Talk**

### **Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1.18-25**

The Message that points to Christ on the Cross seems like sheer silliness to those hellbent on destruction, but for those on the way of salvation it makes perfect sense. This is the way God works, and most powerfully as it turns out.

It's written, I'll turn conventional wisdom on its head, I'll expose so-called experts as crackpots.

So where can you find someone truly wise, truly educated, truly intelligent in this day and age? Hasn't God exposed it all as pretentious nonsense?

Since the world in all its fancy wisdom never had a clue when it came to knowing God, God in his wisdom took delight in using what the world considered dumb - preaching, of all things! - to bring those who trust him into the way of salvation.

While Jews clamour for miraculous demonstrations and Greeks go in for philosophical wisdom,

we go right on proclaiming Christ, the Crucified. Jews treat this like an anti-miracle - and Greeks pass it off as absurd.

But to us who are personally called by God himself - both Jews and Greeks - Christ is God's ultimate miracle and wisdom all wrapped up in one.

Human wisdom is so tinny, so impotent, next to the seeming absurdity of God. Human strength can't begin to compete with God's "weakness."

*All*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Talk**

### **Hymn Father hear the prayer we offer**

Father, hear the prayer we offer:  
not for ease that prayer shall be,  
but for strength that we may ever  
live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures  
do we ask our way to be;  
but the steep and rugged pathway  
may we tread rejoicingly.

Not for ever by still waters  
would we idly rest and stay;  
but would smite the living fountains  
from the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
in our wonderings be our guide;  
through endeavour, failure, danger,  
Father, be thou at our side.

### **Gospel Reading John 2.13-22**

All

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *John*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the Passover Feast, celebrated each spring by the Jews, was about to take place, Jesus travelled up to Jerusalem.

He found the Temple teeming with people selling cattle and sheep and doves. The loan sharks were also there in full strength.

Jesus put together a whip out of strips of leather and chased them out of the Temple, stampeding the sheep and cattle, upending the tables of the loan sharks, spilling coins left and right.

He told the dove merchants, "Get your things out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a shopping centre!"

That's when his disciples remembered the Scripture, "Zeal for your house consumes me."

But the Jews were upset. They asked, "What credentials can you present to justify this?"

Jesus answered, "Tear down this Temple and in three days I'll put it back together."

They were indignant: "It took forty-six years to build this Temple, and you're going to rebuild it in three days?"

But Jesus was talking about his body as the Temple.

Later, after he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this. They then put two and two together and believed both what was written in Scripture and what Jesus had said.

All

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Talk**

#### **Affirmation of faith**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made all things?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed the world?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God?

**We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God:**

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Prayers**

**The Peace**

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We exchange a sign of peace.*

**Hymn Be thou my vision**

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;  
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;  
be thou my great Father, and I thy true heir;  
be thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;  
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:  
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor all the world's praise:  
be thou mine inheritance now and always;  
be thou and thou only the first in my heart:  
O sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright sun,  
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won;  
great heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be thou my vision, O ruler of all.

God of mercy and compassion, your Word calls us home to faith and love.  
Accept all we offer you this day, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Eucharist**

The Lord is here

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*Question* Why is it right to give thanks and praise?

*Answer* **Listen, and we will hear.**

Loving God, you made the world and us to be your companions.

On Mount Sinai you gave the law to Moses.

You called your people to be a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.

In your temple you enshrined your law and made your mercy seat the place of your people's reconciliation with you.

In Jesus you came among your people as the embodiment of your law and the personification of your temple.

His cross is the place where we find forgiveness and his resurrection is the new law of life with you for ever.

And so we praise you with angels and archangels, singing the hymn of your unending praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you, loving Father,

because, when we turned away,

you sent Jesus, your Son.

He gave his life for us on the cross

and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit

that these gifts of bread and wine

may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

*Question* Why do we share this bread and wine?

*Answer* **Listen, and we will hear.**

On the night before he died,

when darkness had fallen,

Jesus took bread.

He gave thanks, broke it,

and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
'This is my body, given for you.  
Do this to remember me.'  
After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,  
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,  
for the forgiveness of sins.'  
So Father, with this bread and this cup  
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.  
As you feed us with these gifts,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
and change us more and more  
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

*Question* How do we follow Jesus?  
*Answer* **Listen, and we will hear.**

Help us, Father, to love one another,  
as we look forward to that day  
when suffering is ended,  
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.  
And now with your saints  
we give you glory,  
through Jesus Christ,  
in the strength of the Spirit,  
today and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The 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,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**



*As the bread is broken*

**Cantor** Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.

*If we have bread (and wine) we consume them at this point*

### **Prayer after Communion**

God of compassion, through your Son Jesus you have reconciled your people to yourself. As we follow his example, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Notices**

#### **Hymn I cannot tell**

I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship,  
should set his love upon the sons of men,  
or why, as Shepherd, he should seek the wanderers,  
to bring them back, they know not how or when.  
But this I know, that he was born of Mary,  
when Bethlehem's manger was his only home,  
and that he lived at Nazareth and laboured,  
and so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

I cannot tell how silently he suffered,  
as with his peace he graced this place of tears,  
or how his heart upon the cross was broken,  
the crown of pain to three-and-thirty years.  
But this I know, he heals the broken-hearted,  
and stays our sin, and calms our lurking fear,  
and lifts the burden from the heavy-laden,  
for yet the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is here.

I cannot tell how he will win the nations,  
how he will claim his earthly heritage,  
how satisfy the needs and aspirations  
of east and west, of sinner and of sage.  
But this I know, all flesh shall see his glory,  
and he shall reap the harvest he has sown,  
and some glad day his sun shall shine in splendour,  
when he the Saviour, Saviour of the world is known.

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,  
when, at his bidding, every storm is stilled,  
or who can say how great the jubilation  
when all the hearts of men with love are filled.  
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,  
and myriad, myriad human voices sing,  
and earth to heaven, and heaven to earth, will answer:  
"At last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!"

### **Blessing**

God, who raises you to new life in Christ,  
keep you from falling and set you in the presence of his glory;  
and the blessing ...

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**