

Sunday 17 January 2021 – Christian Unity

The Gathering

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.

Opening Hymn Ye holy angels bright [826]

Prayer of Preparation

**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.**

Prayers of Penitence

Our Lord Jesus Christ says,
'A new commandment I give you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.'
Let us confess to almighty God
our failure to accept his love
and to share it with others.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

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.**

The Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect

Heavenly Father,
you have called us in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ
to continue his work of reconciliation
and reveal you to the world.
Forgive us the sins which tear us apart;
give us the courage to overcome our fears
and to seek that unity which is your gift and your will;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings – read by Revd Heather

1 Samuel 3: 1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.² At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³ the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down

in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' ⁵ and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. ⁶ The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' ⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸ The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰ Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

Revelation 5: 1-10

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; ² and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁴ And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'

⁶ Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. ⁸ When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ They sing a new song:

'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals,
for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God
saints from every tribe and language and people and nation;
¹⁰ you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and
they will reign on earth.'

Gospel Reading – read by the Rector

Alleluia, alleluia.

'May all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me,' says the Lord. **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 1: 43 – 51

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' ⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' ⁵⁰ Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' ⁵¹ And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary**

and was made man.

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

At the start of this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, taking place in these strangest of times, we celebrate the fact that Christians of all denominations are members of the mystical body of Christ, united by love, and as such do not need to meet together in a building to be one Church. Lord we rejoice that the bitter enmity between Christians that led to bloody wars of religion and persecutions is a thing of the past, as, largely, are petty rivalries. We give thanks for the work of the World Council of Churches and closer to home that of Churches Together in England in encouraging collaboration between churches. Here at the Minster, until we are all able to meet again for worship, let us devote ourselves even more than usual to prayer, for it is only by keeping our attention firmly on Jesus at all times that we are able to bear good fruit, fruit that will last.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Lord we bring before you all those working in NHS hospitals at a time of unprecedented demand on their services. We pray that NHS staff will still be able to offer treatment to everybody that needs it and will not have to decide who lives and who dies. Protect them from the virus and from mental health problems caused by the trauma they have witnessed. May those who have

chosen to flout the rules, so endangering others, have a change of heart so that the NHS is not overwhelmed and the number of new cases and hospitalisations starts to go down. Lord be with all those who have lost loved ones in this pandemic, also with those who have suffered long term damage to their health after contracting Covid, or have had surgical procedures put on hold because of lack of capacity in our hospitals.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

We give thanks for the efforts of the scientists who have worked tirelessly to develop highly effective Covid vaccines in record time and for the work of those tasked with organising the distribution of these vaccines to hospitals, GP surgeries and mass vaccination centres across the UK. We give thanks too for the small army of people, including many volunteers who will be doing the vaccinating in the weeks and months ahead. May the government reach its target of 14 million vaccinations by mid-February so that all those in greatest danger from the virus will be protected and the restrictions governing our lives can start to be eased. Until this is achieved, Lord, protect the most vulnerable, especially residents of care homes. May they and those shielding at home not be seriously affected by the isolation they are experiencing during this latest lockdown.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

We pray for all families during the lockdown especially those living in crowded or sub-standard accommodation. We think of children not able to see their friends and in the case of the younger ones, perhaps not understanding why. Also of their parents having to juggle the competing demands of work and home schooling, or perhaps unable to offer their children the electronic devices that will enable them to learn effectively on-line. We also think of those trapped in abusive relationships that they will have the courage and the opportunity to break free.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Finally we pray for healing in body and spirit for anyone known to us who is sick and the reassurance for their anxious loved ones that all shall be well. We also give thanks for the lives of all those who have recently died, confident that though they are now separated from us, they are not separated from you.

Merciful Father

Accept these prayers

**for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

We are all one in Christ Jesus.

We belong to him through faith,

heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

God of power and love, by your Holy Spirit,
draw the scattered flock of Christ into a visible unity
and make your Church a sign of hope to our divided world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer F

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.

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

By him, your only Son,
who restored to us peace through the blood of his cross,
you willed to reconcile all creatures.

In him you have led us to the knowledge of your truth,
that bound together by one faith and one baptism
we might become his body.

Through him you have given your Holy Spirit to all peoples
to work marvels by innumerable gifts
and an abundant variety of graces.

Gathering us together in unity,

your Spirit dwells in the hearts of all your children,
filling the whole Church with his presence
and guiding it with wisdom from above.

And so, with steadfast love,
we proclaim your glory
and join with hosts of angels
in their triumphant hymn of 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.**

Lord God, you are the most holy one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
you reveal the power of your love
made perfect in our human weakness.
Embracing our humanity,
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
loving us to the end,
he gave himself to death for us;
dying for his own,
he set us free from the bonds of sin,
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all
he took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it 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 and gave you thanks;
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, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,
we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high
and we long for his coming in glory.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Look with favour on your people
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.

Bless the earth,

heal the sick,

let the oppressed go free

and fill your Church with power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth

to feast with St Cuthburga and all your saints

at the table in your kingdom,

where the new creation is brought to perfection

in Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,

for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts

for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God and Father,

whose Son at supper prayed that his disciples might be one,

as he is one with you:

draw us closer to him,

that in common love and obedience to you

we may be united to one another

in the fellowship of the one Spirit,

that the world may believe that he is Lord, to your eternal glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn Lord you give the great commission [315]

The Dismissal

The Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
teach you to walk in his way more trustfully,
to accept his truth more faithfully,
and to share his life more lovingly;
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
you may come as one family to the kingdom of the Father.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Be with you all, now and evermore Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ voluntary : **Hindemith** *Sonate 2: i. Lebhaft*

*Acknowledgements: Collect and prayer from Common Worship © The Archbishops' Council 2000
Times and Season ©The Archbishops' Council 2006*

*The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible Anglicized
edition ©1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in
the United States of America and are used by permission. All rights reserved*