

Benefice of Silsoe, Pulloxhill and Flitton
Growing as beacons of Christ's light in our communities

Sunday 5 July 2020



**Welcome to our eucharist service for
Together Sunday**

Led by Rev Anne Barker
Sermon by Bishop Richard
Intercessions by Reader Roy Pinnock

Introduction

The National Health Service came into being on 5 July 1948. During post-war reconstruction, improving the healthcare of the nation was seen as crucial to the nation's recovery. Beveridge, the architect of the NHS, identified "five giants" that had to be slain: want, disease, squalor, ignorance and idleness. The cataclysm of war provided the stimulus for radical reform. It was a momentous achievement and, in spite of early professional resistance to some of the proposals, it was born of a national consensus: everybody wanted the new service to work.

The NHS was based on principles unlike anything that had gone before. It was financed almost entirely from central taxation. That the rich paid more than the poor for comparable benefits was regarded as a crucial part of the scheme. Everyone was eligible for care, even people temporarily resident or visiting the country. People could be referred to any hospital, local or more distant. Care was free at the point of use, although prescription and dental charges were subsequently introduced.

During the current pandemic, there has been immense national and local support for the NHS and its front line workers. The emergence of the Thursday 'Clap for Carers' was a significant experience in the lockdown. Thanksgiving binds communities together, turning 'I' into 'we'. The contribution of carers and key workers who have given of themselves sacrificially needs to be honoured. Sharing stories of people and events during the crisis is likely to form the kernel of any community celebration. Unsung heroes need to be applauded.

The seven critical-care Covid Hospitals have been named after Florence Nightingale, and a post-Covid rehabilitation facility named after Mary Seacole, both prominent figures in nursing history and role models in the NHS.

(+ Robert Exon *Chair of the Liturgical Commission*)

We Gather for Worship and Praise God

Come, all you who are loved by God,
Come, and be fed with the food that He gives freely;
Come, and quench your thirst from the waters of life;
Come, and let your spirits be filled again with the goodness of your Creator.

**Lord God, giver of all good things,
we hear Your invitation,
we see Your gifts of life and grace.
We have come, we have tasted
and we know, O God, You are good. Amen.**

We Bring Our Confession

O God, Who embraces us in mercy and acceptance,
we recognise those places in our lives
where we have been hurt and rejected.

And we offer them to You.

We recognise those times when we have hurt and rejected others

And we offer them to You.

And we recognise the ways that we have failed
to believe in Your forgiving power.

Forgiveness

The God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself and cleanse you from your sins
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Responsory

Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
and be not wise in your own sight.
**Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
and be not wise in your own sight.**

In all your ways acknowledge him
and he will make straight your paths.
Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
**Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
and be not wise in your own sight.**

Collect for St Luke

Almighty God,
you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel,
to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit
and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel,
give your Church the same love and power to heal;
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.**

We Hear the Word of Life

Colossian 3:9-15

⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn: Brother, sister, let me serve you - *Richard A M Gillard (b 1953)*

1. Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

3. I will hold the Christlight for you
in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

4. I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

5. When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

6. Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

The Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you O Lord

Luke 7:1-10

When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. ²There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was ill and about to die. ³The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. ⁴When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, 'This man deserves to have you do this, ⁵because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.' ⁶So Jesus went with them.

He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: 'Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. ⁷That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, "Go", and he goes; and that one, "Come", and he comes. I say to my servant, "Do this", and he does it.'

⁹When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, 'I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.' ¹⁰Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon Bishop Richard

We Proclaim What We Believe

We believe in God,

The Maker and Lover of all things.

We believe in God,

The One who comes near, and rescues all people.

We believe in God,

**The One who gives life to every creature,
and fills us with strength and love. Amen.**

Intercessions led by Reader Roy Pinnock

The Peace is shared

God has called us to live in peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you (1Cor.7:17)

We Gather at the Lord's Table

Come, all you who are loved by God,
Come to the table of the Lord,
Come and eat food with no cost,
Come and drink with no money to pay.
We come to eat, to drink, and our hearts are glad.

Yes, dear Lord our God, our hearts truly are glad,
and we are filled with thankfulness,
because in Your great love You did not abandon us
in the dark and fearful places of this world,
but in Jesus, You came to us, to rescue us, to restore us,
and to give us new life.
**And all who are tired and burdened,
all who are frightened and unsafe,
all who are sick and broken, can come and find new life.**

We remember the way that Jesus showed us His love:
On the evening before He died, He had supper with His friends.
During the meal, He took the loaf of bread,
gave thanks for it, broke it ([bread is broken](#))
and then passed it around with these words:
This is my body broken for you. +
Eat this and remember Me.

And, after the meal He took the cup of wine,
gave thanks for it and then passed it around with these words:
This is my blood shed for you. +
Drink this and remember Me.

And now, every time we eat bread like this,
and every time we drink wine like this,
we remember Jesus, and His everlasting love.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is 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.**

The Invitation

Here is the table of the Lord.
We are gathered to his supper, a foretaste of things eternal.
Come, when you are fearful, to be made new in love.
Come, when you are doubtful, to be made strong in faith.
Come, when you are regretful, and be made whole.
Come, old and young, there is room for all

The Communion is distributed

We Prepare to Go Back Into the World

Now come, all you who are loved by God,
hear His call to serve others as He has served you.
Hear His invitation to be part of His plan to rescue the world.
Join the community of those who walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

**Lord God of World-Changing Love, we thank You for this meal,
and for welcoming us to Your table.
We remember that we are Your children,
and that You have called us
to share Your love with everyone we meet.
Help us to receive Your life, walk in Your strength,
and follow Your ways every moment of our lives. Amen**

Blessing

And now, may God's caring arms embrace you;
Jesus' comforting words fill you,
the Holy Spirit's renewing presence surround you;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and those on your hearts, today and always. **Amen**

Go in the peace of Christ
Thanks be to God

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