

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

**Morning Worship - Sunday 6 September 2020**

Recorded at St John the Baptist, Flitton

Led by Reader Gillian Kern



**Prayers for the opening of our churches**

Lord God, as we open our churches today we thank you for all the worship we have shared during their closure on our website, with one another and through media resources.

Grant us the passion we need to serve and worship you in our churches and in our homes and the enthusiasm and imagination to reach out to those who are not ready to return to our buildings by finding new ways of sharing your love and grace in our community.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit and guide us as we explore our faith in new places and at new times.

We ask that you continue to watch over those who are not ready to return and we thank you, and them, for the years of service that so many of them have provided to worship in our churches.

We ask that you watch over those who have found us online and we pray that we may meet with them in our churches when the time is right.

May we all share in the joy and delight of being back in your house whether we are here in person or via the camera. **Amen**

**Greeting**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you

**All: and also with you**

This is the day the Lord has made.

**All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

We have come together in the name of Christ  
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,  
to hear and receive God's holy word,  
to pray for the needs of the world,  
and to seek forgiveness for our sins,  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may give ourselves to the service of God;  
Let us, therefore, pray together and remember God's  
Presence with us now.

**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.**

### **The prayers of penitence**

God so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ  
to save us from our sins,  
to be our advocate in heaven,  
and to bring us to eternal life:

Let us, therefore, confess our sins in penitence and faith firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all:

**All: Lord God,  
we have sinned against you;  
we have done what is wrong in your sight;  
we are sorry and repent.  
Have mercy on us according to your love,  
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**

May the father of all mercies  
cleanse us from our sins  
and restore us in his image,  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

**All: Amen**

Blessed is the Lord,

**All: For he has heard our prayer.**

Therefore, shall our hearts dance for joy

**All: and in our songs we will praise our God.**

**Amen**

### **Collect for the 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

Almighty God, you search us and know us;  
may we rely on your strength  
and rest on you in weakness, now and in all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## The Word of God

### Psalm 119 v33-40

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,  
and I will observe it to the end.  
<sup>34</sup> Give me understanding, that I may keep your law  
and observe it with my whole heart.  
<sup>35</sup> Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for I delight in it.  
<sup>36</sup> Turn my heart to your decrees,  
and not to selfish gain.  
<sup>37</sup> Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;  
give me life in your ways.  
<sup>38</sup> Confirm to your servant your promise,  
which is for those who fear you.  
<sup>39</sup> Turn away the disgrace that I dread,  
for your ordinances are good.  
<sup>40</sup> See, I have longed for your precepts;  
in your righteousness give me life.

### The Epistle - Romans 13 8-14

<sup>8</sup> Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. <sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; <sup>13</sup> let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

### The Gospel - Matthew 18 15:20

<sup>15</sup> 'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup> But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. <sup>18</sup> Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

This is the word of The Lord

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen**

## **The Creed**

**All: 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 to heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.  
Amen**

## **Prayers of intercession**

Gathering our prayers into one, let us pray as Jesus taught us  
**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**

## **Closing prayers**

**All: Almighty God,  
we thank you for the gift of your holy word.  
may it be a lantern at our feet,  
a light upon our paths  
and a strength to our lives.  
take us and use us  
to love and serve all people  
in the power of the Holy Spirit  
and in the name of your Son  
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

May the Lord watch over us all this day/night  
may he smile upon us and grant us his peace.

**All: Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**All: in the name of Christ. Amen**