

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



**Service of Holy Communion for the  
18th Sunday after Trinity  
11 October 2020**

Led by Rev Julie Cox  
at St John the Baptist, Flitton

**Welcome**

*Priest* In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

**All Amen**

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

**All 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.**

*Priest* Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**All Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

## Prayer of Confession

*Priest:* Let us confess our sins, in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with everyone.

**All:** Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry,  
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 grant that we may serve you  
in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.

*Priest:* 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.

**All:** Amen.

## The Gloria

**All:** 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.

*Priest:* O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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.

**All: Amen**

### Collect for the 18th Sunday after Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God,  
increase in us your gift of faith  
that, forsaking what lies behind  
and reaching out to that which is before,  
we may run the way of your commandments  
and win the crown of everlasting joy;  
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 Epistle** read by Margaret Butt

### Philippians 4:1-9

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

<sup>2</sup>I urge you Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Yes and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement, and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

<sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

<sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup>and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worth of praise —think about these things. <sup>9</sup> Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me and the God of peace will be with you

This is the word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel - Matthew 22:1-14

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

**All: Glory to you O Lord**

22Once more Jesus spoke to chief priest and Pharisees in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup>'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son.

<sup>3</sup>He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup>Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." <sup>5</sup>But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup>while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them.

<sup>7</sup>The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.

<sup>8</sup>Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup>Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." <sup>10</sup>Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup>'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup>and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup>Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." <sup>14</sup>For many are called, but few are chosen.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ**

## Sermon

## Creed

*Priest* Let us declare our faith in God, Father Son & Holy Spirit

**All: 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 worshiped 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.

*Priest:* In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ  
let us pray to God, our loving heavenly Father

**Intercessions** led by Margaret Butt

*Bidding:* Lord, in your mercy

**All: Hear our prayer**

**Merciful Father, Accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ  
Amen**

**The Peace**

*Priest:* The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All: And also with you.**

*Priest:* Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty, for  
everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you.

**Eucharistic Prayer**

*Priest:* The Lord be with you

**All: And also with you.**

*Priest:* Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

*Priest:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Priest:* It is indeed right,  
it is our duty and our joy,  
at all times and in all places  
to give you thanks and praise,  
holy Father, heavenly King,  
almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word;  
through him you have created all things from the beginning,  
and formed us in your own image.

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin,  
giving him to be born as a man and to die upon the cross;  
you raised him from the dead  
and exalted him to your right hand on high.

Through him you have sent upon us  
your holy and life-giving Spirit,  
and made us a people for your own possession.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**All 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.**

*Priest* Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;

who in the same night that he was betrayed,  
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, heavenly Father,  
we remember now his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All**    **Christ has died:**  
          **Christ is risen:**  
          **Christ will come again.**

*Priest* Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit  
inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in words of everlasting praise:

**All**    **Blessing and honour and glory and power**  
          **be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Priest* As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

**All**    **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.**  
          **And 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.**

## Preparation

*Priest:* We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

**All: Though we are many, we are one body,  
Because we all share, we all share in one bread.**

**Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

## Invitation to Communion

*Priest* Draw near with faith.  
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.  
Eat and drink  
in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

**All: We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.  
Amen.**

## Post Communion Prayer

*Priest:* We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast:  
for here we receive you,  
here the memory of your passion is renewed,  
here our minds are filled with grace,  
and here a pledge of future glory is given,  
when we shall feast at that table where you reign  
with all your saints for ever.  
**Amen**



**All:** Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### Dismissal

*Priest:* The peace of God,  
which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and all those you love, now and forever  
**Amen.**

*Priest:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**All:** In the name of Christ, Amen