

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



Sunday 7 February 2021
Above All, Christ

with Rev DAVID PAYNE

Recorded at
St James the Great, Silsoe

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayers

God in Christ has revealed his glory.

All: Come let us worship.

From the rising of the sun to its setting

All: the Lord's name is to be praised.

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.

All: O praise the name of the Lord!

Almighty God,
your Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence.
Give us new hearts and constant wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn: All Heaven Declares

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1. All heaven declares
The glory of the risen Lord
Who can compare with
The beauty of the Lord

2. I will proclaim
The glory of the risen Lord
Who once was slain
To reconcile man to God

Refrain:

*Forever He will be
The Lamb upon the throne
I gladly bow the knee
And worship Him alone*

Prayers of Penitence

**All: Take away, Good Lord, the sin that corrupts us;
give us the sorrow that heals
and the joy that praises,
and restore by grace your own image within us
that we may take our place among your people
in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Gospel Reading: Colossians 1:15-20

Read by Gilly Nixon

We cannot see God. But Jesus Christ shows us completely who God is. Even before God made anything, Jesus was already there as God's greatest Son who rules everything.

When God made everything, it was his Son who did it. He made everything that is on earth and in heaven. He made everything that we can see, as well as the things that we cannot see. He made rulers and leaders. He made everything that has power and authority.

God gave his Son the authority to make everything, so that his Son would receive praise. God's Son was there before anything else was there. And now he causes everything to continue in its proper place.

The church is like Christ's body and he is its head. He is where it all begins. As God's special Son, he was the first person who became alive again after death. As a result, Christ is first and most important in all things.

God chose to put his nature in Christ completely. He decided that Christ would die on the cross as a sacrifice. In that way, God would bring all things back to himself.

Then everything could live in peace with God. That includes everything on the earth and everything in heaven.

The Easy English Bible

Rev Payne in discussion with Dr Chris Nixon

Hymn: At the Name of Jesus

1. At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of glory now;
'tis the Father's pleasure
We should call Him Lord,
who, from the beginning
Was the mighty Word.

2. At his voice creation
sprang at once to sight,
all the angels' faces,
all the hosts of light,
thrones and dominations,
stars upon their way,
all the heavenly orders
in their great array.

3. Humbled for a season,
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom He came,
faithfully he bore it,
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious,
when from death He passed.

5. In your hearts enthrone Him;
there let Him subdue
all that is not holy,
all that is not true;
crown Him as your Captain
in temptation's hour;
let His will enfold you
In its light and power.

4. Bore it up triumphant
with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures
to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead,
to the Father's breast,
filled it with the glory
of that perfect rest.

6. Truly, this Lord Jesus
shall return again,
with His Father's glory,
with His angel train;
for all wreaths of empire
meet upon His brow,
and our hearts confess Him
King of glory now.

Intercessions led by Alan Aldridge

Christ who is first and last,
assist our understanding of creation,
the depth and significance of his Word,
and make the Church a true witness
to the light that has come into the world.

Help our Ministry Team here in the
Benefice of Flitton, Pulloxhill and Silsoe,
lead us to a better understanding
with that light shining through their ministry.

Give wisdom to the Church
and to us all here to see the way of mission set out for us,
helping us to give good counsel to all who seek aid,
and may all Christian people be drawn into Christ's divinity
by being faithful to him and following his teaching.

Lord in your mercy
All: **Hear our prayer**

May the Lord, by whom all things were made,
look with compassion on the world at this time,
when whatever is happening in individual countries
we are all suffering in one way or another from the Covid19 pandemic.

Help the response to this draw together all nations
and allow assistance between them.
The things that we used to hear about around the world are still happening,
and in many places the virus is just another hardship,
on top of all the things that have to be faced every day.

Help us to remember those other burdens,
here in our villages, towns, country and the world,
and not ignore them in our prayers.
May the people who know Christ bring his light to others,
and those who know him not, or have forgotten him, receive that light.

Lord in your mercy

All: **Hear our prayer**

Inspire and direct all in our community
and beyond who teach and guide others,
especially now during this time of home schooling.
Help parents find the time to listen and talk to their children,
and help them resist the exasperation that can come
if those being taught seem not to understand.

Give school teachers, preparing and giving remote lessons,
strength to find that extra knowledge,
of how to get such teaching across to those at home,
rather than in front of them in the classroom.
Christ was a teacher, sometimes being tested by those he taught,
so help them to find his wisdom and patience.

Lord in your mercy

All: **Hear our prayer**

Have mercy on those who are in the darkness of suffering,
the sick, the bereaved, the oppressed and the homeless.
We also remember all those who work outside at this time,
to keep us safe and warm in our homes,
and those who cannot work from home and go out each day to their work,
particularly those who produce, provide and deliver the food we eat,
come to our aid if we have a problem, emergency service workers,
and those who drive buses or trains to support those essential workers.

We also remember those who try to make sure that
others who are feeling lonely due to the lockdown
have someone to talk to, socially distanced,
on the phone or taking part in a video call.
Help bring relief through the light that darkness cannot contain.

Lord in your mercy

All: **Hear our prayer**

As well as those whose names appear on screen at the end of this service
we pray for those known only to us who are in difficulty,
sick or grieving for loved ones or friends
who have passed to that greater light of Christ.
In a time of silence we remember all those in our hearts.

Help us all come to the perfect light of heaven
and may we, with them, become the children of God for ever.
We pray in the name of Christ,
the true light, the eternal Word,
and ask that your protection folds around us every day,
whilst we try to live closer to the way Christ has shown us.

**All: Merciful Father, accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

And now rejoicing in the presence of God here amongst us we pray

**All Our Father, who 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 forever.
Amen.**

Closing prayers & Blessing

Christ, as a light,
illumine and guide us.
Christ, as a shield
overshadow and cover us.
Christ be under us,
Christ be over us.
Christ be beside us ,
on left and on right.
Christ be before us,
Christ be behind us,
Christ be within us,
Christ be without us.
Christ as a light,
illumine and guide us.

May the peace, the power and the presence
of Jesus Christ above all,
reign in your hearts,
abide in your homes
and dwell with all those whom you love.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Be yours and remain yours
This day, every day and for ever more
Amen

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

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If you would like to be part of one of our services by either reading from the Bible or leading our prayers, please contact Rev Payne on 01525 864858 or vicar@3churches.uk

Prayers for the Nation – this is the link to the daily prayer:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation>

If you have a few minutes, please let take the time to answer a few questions which will help us to plan future services:

<https://3churches.uk/feedback-on-recorded-services/>

Please join Rev David Payne for TEA at THREE

ZOOM time together every Sunday from 3pm to 4pm

A chance to catch up with others, laugh, moan, get things off your chest. No agenda – just bring your own brew and a cake or equivalent (calories don't count on Sundays).

Contact Rev David on vicar@3churches.uk for the ZOOM access code
(It's the same code every week, so if you joined us last week you can use the same code this week)

Daily HOPE - A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers – 0800 804 8044