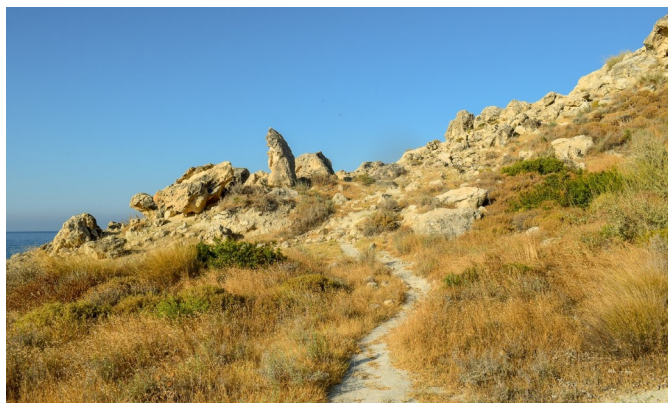


The Benefice of Flitton, Pulloxhill and Silsoe
Growing as beacons of Christ's light in our communities



Sunday 2 May 2021
'THE WILDERNESS ROAD'

Sunday Worship
with Rev DAVID PAYNE

Recorded in Silsoe and Barton

Greeting & Opening Prayer

Honour the Lord with me!
Celebrate his great name.

All: Honour the Lord with me!
Celebrate his great name.

I asked the Lord for help
and he saved me from all my fears.

All: Honour the Lord with me.

I was a nobody, but I prayed,
and the Lord saved me from all my troubles.

All: Celebrate his great name.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

All: Honour the Lord with me.
Celebrate his great name.

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

Hymn: I, The Lord of Sea and Sky

1 I, The Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain;
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone;
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts are satisfied;
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Prayers of Penitence

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.

God be gracious to us and bless us,
and make your face shine upon us:

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

May your ways be known upon the earth,
your saving power among the nations:

Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins;
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life
in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Bible Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Read by David Pilcher

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury and he had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
as he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does this prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the Word of our Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Address

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

All: **We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Prayers

Led by Jo Payne

Psalm 95:1-7 (New Living Translation)

- ¹ Come, let us sing to the LORD!
Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.
- ² Let us come before him with thanksgiving.
Let us sing psalms of praise to him.
- ³ For the LORD is a great God,
a great King above all gods.
- ⁴ He holds in his hands the depths of the earth
and the mightiest mountains.
- ⁵ The sea belongs to him, because he made it.
His hands formed the dry land, too.
- ⁶ Come, let us worship and bow down.
Let us kneel before the LORD our maker,
- ⁷ for he is our God.
We are the people he watches over,
the flock under his care.

Heavenly Father,
Thank you for the example of Philip
who was obedient to an angel of the Lord
and set out on a journey without knowing why.

Give us eager hearts and minds
that invite the Holy Spirit to work in us,
trusting in Jesus' promise to his disciples and to us:
"I am with you always to the very end of the age" (*Matthew 28:20*)

Thank you for the example of Philip
who heard the instruction of the Holy Spirit to
"Go to that chariot and stay near it."

Give us obedient and generous hearts and minds
which offer ourselves to God:
"'Here am I. Send me!' (*Isaiah 6: 8*)...
Put me in a place where I can do good for you today."

Thank you for the example of the Ethiopian
who asked for help
when he didn't understand the passage of scripture.

Give us humble hearts and minds
to acknowledge that we can't do everything in our own strength
and that we can ask others to help us.

Thank you for the example of Philip
who explained the good news
of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Give us confident hearts and minds
to be ready to explain to others
our faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

Thank you for the example of the Ethiopian
who by the Holy Spirit
understood and believed the good news of Jesus,
and who impulsively asked to be baptised.

Give us ardent hearts and minds
to follow the Holy Spirit's prompting
to act impulsively for God.

Thank you for the example of Philip
who recognised the work of the Holy Spirit
in the Ethiopian and baptised him into God's family.

Give us intrepid hearts and minds
to live boldly for Christ,
remembering that "God did not give us a spirit of timidity,
but a spirit of power, of love and self-discipline." (2 Timothy 1:7)

With the power of the Holy Spirit in us,
show us this day and this week
how we can live effectively and actively
as Christians in your world. **Amen.**

In a moment of quietness, let us bring before God
the situations and people about whom we care...

The Lord's Prayer

Let us draw our prayers together in the words of the Lord's Prayer:

**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.**

Hymn: Restore, O Lord the Honour of Your Name

1 Restore, O Lord,
the honour of your name,
in works of sov'reign power
come shake the earth again;
that all may see
and come with rev'rent fear
to the living God,
whose kingdom shall outlast the years.

2 Restore, O Lord,
in all the earth your fame,
and in our time revive
the church that bears your name.
And in Your anger,
Lord, remember mercy,
O living God,
whose mercy shall outlast the years.

3 Bend us, O Lord,
where we are hard and cold,
in Your refiner's fire
come purify the gold.
Though suff'ring comes
and evil crouches near,
still our living God
is reigning, he is reigning here.

4 Restore, O Lord,
the honour of Your name,
in works of sovereign power
come shake the earth again;
that all may see
and come with rev'rent fear
to the living God,
whose kingdom shall outlast the years.

Closing Prayer & Blessing

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us always to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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.
All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

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Please remember in your prayers
this week:



Those who have recently
died, including

Paulina Metianu

and their families and
friends who mourn them

Those who are ill, including

Des Brazier,
Alice Butler,
Kara De Napoli
(granddaughter of Margaret Butt),
Stella Lawton,
Sally Metianu,
Bill Powers,
Joan Preston
Malcolm Smith

We also remember: Jonah - born at 27 weeks -great-grandson of Anne Stiles
The residents and staff at Taymer Nursing Home

continued/...

SERVICES FOR SUNDAY 9 MAY 2021

9:30 am Holy Communion in Flitton Church with Rev David Payne

11:00 am Morning Worship in Silsoe Church led by Maggie Jeeves, sermon from Rev David Payne

6:00 pm Evening Prayers in Pulloxhill Church led by Roy Pinnock, sermon from Rev David Payne

Virtual Vicar: Sunday Worship

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

Silsoe – 6 May 7:30 pm by Zoom

Pulloxhill – 16 May 11:00 am in church

TEA at THREE on Sunday 2 May

ZOOM time together every Sunday from 3pm to 4pm – everybody welcome.
A chance to catch up with others, laugh, moan, get things off your chest. .

It's the same code every week. Contact Rev David on 01525 864858 or
vicar@3churches.uk for the ZOOM access code

