

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



Sunday 10 January 2021

**With LIZ COULSON &
Reader GILLIAN KERN**

**Recorded at
St James the Apostle, Pulloxhill**

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayers

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognise him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Hymn – On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's cry

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh.
Awake and harken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!

3 We hail you as our Saviour, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward.
Without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.

5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

2 Then cleansed be every life from sin:
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.

Prayers of Penitence

Holy Father, grant us pardon and peace,
cleanse us from all sin,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in peace and life eternal,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you,
through our own fault,
in thought, and word, and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
We are heartily sorry,
and repent of all our sins.
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

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

Bible Reading: Mark 1:4-11 (NIV)

Read by Alice Butler

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased"

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Address - Gillian Kern



Prayers

Father God, in a universe that seems so immense it is easy to feel powerless. Yet we know that just as you told Jesus at his baptism that you loved Him, you love each one of us. Thank you that we can come to you with our prayers for ourselves and others.

We pray for our world - the one you created - but seems right now to be in such a mess. We ask that you would show each of us how we can do something to make things better, to make it the world you wanted it to be.

We raise to you those in so many walks of life who have to make decisions for all of us. We ask that you would give your wisdom to those in government and other leadership roles. Help them make decisions that are for the common good even if those decisions are not popular.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for your Church. Help us good Father to live in a way that points people to the fact that your light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never conquered it. We ask that you bless and inspire our Vicar, Revd David, the Ministry Team and PCCs as they lead us through these difficult days and make decisions about services and reaching out to our community.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for our villages and the people around us. We are aware that many people live alone, many are struggling with making ends meet. We think of those trying to help children do their school work at home, those who provide for their families and friends, and those who simply try to keep going.

Father - we know that you care for every sparrow that falls, and that you care deeply for each of us. We ask that those in need will feel and be aware of your love, your concern and see you in action in their lives. Help them to give their cares to you for you care for them.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Loving Father we know that in his ministry people brought sick people to Jesus. This morning we bring to you those we know who are sick, those who are dying and those who grieve. We take a moment of quiet to name them to you.

Father we pray for healing for those who are sick, for comfort for the dying and the bereaved and the certainty that you answer our prayers in the way that is best even if it doesn't always seem that way at the time.

Almighty Father we know that this pandemic cannot be stayed by human power.
We thank you for what people can do to help but we humbly ask that you will stay this virus, that You will turn back the tide and heal our world as only you can do.
We pray that this will make people see your power, your love and your infinite care.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Father God we thank you that just as you told Jesus at his baptism that he was your beloved Son, you have adopted us into your family.
Thank you that you listen to us and there is no where we can be where you are not there with us.
Stay with us this coming week and help us to live lives that witness to our faith in You.

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

The Lord's Prayer

**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 – Crown Him with many crowns

1 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.

2 Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing
who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

3 Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified;
no angels in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends their burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

4 Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity

Final Prayer & Blessing

May the love of the Father,
the tenderness of the Son,
and the presence of the Holy Spirit,
gladden your heart and bring peace to your soul,
in this and every day.

Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
rest and remain upon us all
now and for ever more.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.