**The Churches of St Mary, Haxby and St Nicholas, Wigginton**

The United Benefice of Haxby and Wigginton

*Stepping out … with God … with each other … with our local community and wider world*

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**Worship for Easter Eve (Holy Saturday)**

**Preparation**

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Let your ways be known upon earth,

your saving power among the nations.

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation, to you be praise and glory for ever.

As a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief your only Son was lifted up that

he might draw the whole world to himself.

May we walk this day in the way of the cross and always be ready to

share its weight, declaring your love for all the world.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Blessed be God for ever.

**Saviour of the World**

The royal banners forward go, the cross shines forth in mystic glow;

where he in flesh, our flesh who made, our sentence bore, our ransom paid.

There whilst he hung, his sacred side by soldier’s spear was opened wide,

to cleanse us in the precious flood of water mingled with his blood.

Fulfilled is now what David told in true prophetic song of old,

how God the nations’ King should be; for God is reigning from the tree.

O tree of glory, tree most fair, ordained those holy limbs to bear,

how bright in purple robe it stood, the purple of a Saviour’s blood!

Upon its arms, like balance true, he weighed the price for sinners due,

the price which none but he could pay, and spoiled the spoiler of his prey.

To thee, eternal Three in One, let homage meet by all be done:

as by the cross thou dost restore, so rule and guide us evermore.

*(Venantius Fortunatus, tr: J M Neale)*

**The Service of Light**

*A short Service of Light will be included in our Easter Day service.*

**Bible Readings**

*The following Bible readings would have been used in a Vigil Service.*

*You may like to read one, or all of these texts.*

Genesis 1: 1 – 5; 26 – end

Exodus 14: 15 – 15: 1a

Ezekiel 36: 24 – 28

Romans 6: 3 - 11

**Responsory**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;

by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

We preach Christ crucified, the power of God and the wisdom of God.

By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

*(cf 1 Corinthians 1 and Galatians 6)*

**The Benedictus**

*The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to those who are being saved*

*it is the power of God.*

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,

who has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,

born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets God promised of old

to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,

To show mercy to our ancestors,

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear,

holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation

by the forgiveness of all their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*(Luke 1: 68 – 79)*

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

as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

*The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to those who are being saved*

*it is the power of God.*

**Prayers**

*You may like to offer your own intercessions.*

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ

delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross

we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Lord’s Prayer

 Standing at the foot of the cross, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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.

**Reflecting on our Baptism**

*The Easter Eve Vigil offers an opportunity to renew our baptismal promises. You may like to do this in this service.*

As we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life within the family of his Church.

As we draw near to the end of our observance of Lent and the Lord’s Passion, we renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil.

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

*Use the response* ***in bold*** *as your own response if you wish.*

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

**I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

**I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

**I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

**I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

**I come to Christ.**

May God who has given us the desire to follow Christ give us the strength to continue in the way.

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptized in your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith, that we may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. Amen.

**The Conclusion**

May Christ, who bore our sins on the cross, set us free to serve him with joy. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord Thanks be to God

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