**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: 21st May 2020**

**Ascension Day**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**.

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

Dear friends, on this day we recall how the risen Christ left this earth and returned to his Father, ascending into heaven to take his throne over all dominions and powers.

Seeing we have a great high priest who has passed through the heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us offer him the praise worthy of his name.

**Introit Hymn** ‘Hail the day that sees him rise’

*You may like to light a candle, if safe to do so.*

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, to you be glory and praise for ever. From the darkness of death you raised your Son Jesus Christ to the right hand of your majesty on high. The pioneer of our faith, his passion accomplished, he has opened for us the way to heaven and sends on us the promised Spirit. May we be ready to follow the Way and so be brought to the glory of his presence where songs of triumph for ever sound: blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

**Collect for Ascension Day**

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

**Psalm 47**

*These readings can be found on the separate sheet with the hymn words.*

**Gradual Hymn:** ‘Rejoice, the Lord is King!’

**The Gospel Reading**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

Jesus said to the disciples, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiahis to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnessesof these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.  While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, andreturned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

 *(Luke 24: 44 –53 NRSV)*

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

**Sermon**(by The Revd Martin Doe)

*Provided on the benefice website. You may like to read it now, or later.*

**Affirmation of Faith**

*Let us declare our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God*

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**Intercessions** *(prepared by Mike Symons)*

Today begins a period of global prayer known as ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ from 21st May to 31st May through the Season of Ascension. We are invited by the church worldwide to come together to pray for our family, friends and neighbours that we will all come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ individually. One of our Key Themes this year is prayer and care, which is quite appropriate in this difficult and challenging time of Coronavirus. Perhaps we could each of us recall to mind and pray for 5 of those we love to come to know the hope and love of Christ and we are encouraged to see how we can show God’s love towards them by caring for them in all their needs.

May God be with you **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts **We lift them up to Christ.**

Let us give thanks to our Redeemer

**It is right to give you our thanks and praise.**

Amazing One, we give you thanks and praise for your acts upon all the earth, glorifying you in your grace and righteousness for our sake.

Hear our call of thanksgiving as we lift our voices to heaven,

praising your name and saying:

**Holy, Holy, Holy One, God of power and might; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Glory be to you, O God most high. Blessed is one who comes in the name of the Saviour,**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

God of miracles, God of power, you have accompanied us through time, and in that journey of centuries, you saw fit to give us the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. You called us to follow him, your beloved Son,

and then promised through him that you would continue with us along the way, with the power of the Holy Spirit.

We praise you for Christ’s coming to us. We praise you for Christ’s returning to you in the glory of a dazzling cloud to the amazement of all disciples. We praise you for the assurance of your Counsellor and Comforter coming to the disciples and remaining with all your followers. Jesus Christ, keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace and bring the whole created order to worship at your feet; for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Offertory Hymn** ‘Before the throne of God above’

**Spiritual Communion**

*We look forward to the time when we can meet together and receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. On this holy day the Rector will celebrate Holy Communion at the Rectory, and will receive on behalf of us all.*

In union, blessed Jesus, when we are able to gather together to share in the breaking of bread and the prayers, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death and resurrection, for the means of grace and for the hope of glory.

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament and, since I cannot at this time receive Communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

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.

Laudate Dominum

**The Peace**

Jesus says: ‘Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. If you love me, rejoice because I am going to the Father.’ Alleluia.

May the peace of the Lord be with us always.

**Concluding Hymn** ‘Christ triumphant, ever-reigning’

**The Conclusion**

May Christ our ascended King pour upon us the abundance of his gifts and bring us to reign with him in glory; and may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us always. Amen.

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