**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*

**Celtic Morning Prayer 24th May 2020**

**7th Sunday after Easter (Sunday after Ascension)**

Welcome to a service, based strongly on Northumberland Celtic Morning Prayer.

***Introductory music:***

*Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here. Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear. In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground. Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here. (David J Evans, b 1957)*

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. *(Psalm 118:24 (NRSV)*

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

**HYMN:**  **Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord**

*Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,*

*Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation. *Alleluia, alleluia …*

Spread the good news o’er all the earth. Jesus has died and is risen. *Alleluia, alleluia …*

We have been crucified with Christ. Now we shall live for ever. *Alleluia, alleluia …*

God has proclaimed the just reward: ‘Life for us all, alleluia!’ *Alleluia, alleluia …*

Come, let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Saviour. *Alleluia, alleluia …*

*(Donald Fishel, b 1950)*

*Opening sentences*

One thing I have asked of the Lord, this is what I seek:
**that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;**
to behold the beauty of the Lord **and to seek Him in His temple.**

Who is it that you seek? **I seek the Lord our God.**
Do you seek Him with all your heart? **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**
Do you seek Him with all your soul? **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**
Do you seek Him with all your mind? **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**
Do you seek Him with all your strength? **Amen. Christ, have mercy.**

*Declaration of faith*

To whom shall we go?
**You have the words of eternal life,**

**and we have believed and have come to know
that You are the Holy One of God.**

**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.**

**READING**

# People were bringing little children to him in order that he might bless them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them.But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” (*Mark 10: 13-15 NRSV)*

[Lectionary for the day: [Acts 1:6-14](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=46#hebrew_reading)  •  [Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=46#psalm_reading)  •  [1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=46#epistle_reading)  •  [John 17:1-11](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=46#gospel_reading)]

**Reflection** *(by Barbara Symons)*

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

**CELTIC CREED**

**We believe and trust in God the Father Almighty. Who made us to be his children
And loves us more than words can express.**

 **We believe and trust in Jesus Christ his Son.**

**Who died an agonising death to save us
And rose again to bring us, his wayward children, home.**

 **We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit.**

**Who gives us life and laughter,
And all the joy of play.**

**We believe in God the Father,
We believe in Jesus, God's Son,
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,**

**We believe and trust in the Three in One. Amen**

**HYMN: Seek ye first the kingdom of God**

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness,

and all these things shall be added unto you; alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

You shall not live by bread alone, but by ev’ry word

that proceeds from the mouth of God; alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia. alleluia, alleluia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find;

knock, and it shall be opened unto you; alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*(v. 1 Karen Lafferty, b. 1948; vvs 2 and 3 unknown, based on Matthew 6:33, 7:7)*

***PRAYERS*** *(prepared by Bev Crapper)*

*The Celtic tradition of prayer encourages us to open our thoughts to God,*

*to allow words, feelings and emotions to combine to give words a voice in our heart.*

*So this week our prayers have no responses, but move gently from one theme to another. It is hoped this will offer each participant the opportunity to linger longer on the areas which offer concern for the individual. For those unfamiliar with this quiet, contemplative approach to prayer; try leaving a minute between each section before moving forward when you are ready to do so.* ***[if you are following the service on audio there are times of silence between the prayers]***

Loving God, we heed the message of the Ascension in our church at this difficult time.

We are adapting our faith to worship without the buildings where we have been familiar – and we are mindful of the words of Peter that we should “not be surprised by the trials that test” us. Pour into us confidence, compassion and hospitality to share with all those who seek faith and fortitude, in this community and beyond.

Loving God, You who fixed time and the weather which sustains all living things, reveal to us how to live in this world more simply and sustainably. Covid19 has shown us how to value the natural world; we take time to say ‘thank you’ for the simple pleasures offered on our daily outings: may every race add colour to our celebration, may every soul join the song of creation, may the birds sing and the trees whisper as our praises ring out for the Earth to hear.

Loving God, we bring to you all the children of the world as we were taught by Jesus Christ. In a world of confusion and uncertainty children are in need of our attention: show us ways to meet *their* needs and reveal delights to encourage freedom for body, mind and spirit. Your kingdom is attainable as we accept our dependence on You,

in child-like humility and innocence. Keep us loving one another, especially now when hugs are impossible to share for so many, and embolden us to serve as children of Christ.

Loving God, as Your Son came down to lift us up, You descended to the Earth that the Earth may ascend to heaven. Lift us up in our fretting and anxiety, lift us up in our difficulties, lift us up when we are tired or disappointed. Lift us from darkness into light, lift us from despair to hope, lift us out of doubt to trust and out of sadness into joy. We hold up to you all those unwell or troubled at this time: some we name on our prayer lists and others we name in our hearts.

Loving God, we offer into your safe keeping all those who have died (and take a few moments to consider those known to us in Haxby & Wigginton): may their souls not be afraid but receive your peace, may they find shelter in the Kingdom of God for eternity. May all who mourn them, receive comfort from loving memories, consolation in the love of Christ and courage to face the days ahead.

**Let us sing to God, sing praises to His name: let us glorify His name for evermore.**

**Amen**

We bring all our prayers and petitions to God using the words Jesus gave his disciples:

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

**HYMN: God is love: his the care**

God is love: his the care, tending each, everywhere.

God is love, all is there! Jesus came to show him, that we all might know him!

Sing aloud, loud, loud! Sing aloud, loud, loud!

God is good! God is truth! God is beauty! Praise him!

None can see God above; we can share life and love;

thus may we Godward move, seek him in creation, holding ev’ry nation.

Sing aloud, loud, loud! Sing aloud, loud, loud!

God is good! God is truth! God is beauty! Praise him!

Jesus lived on the earth, hope and life brought to birth

and affirmed human worth, for he came to save us by the truth he gave us.

Sing aloud, loud, loud! Sing aloud, loud, loud!

God is good! God is truth! God is beauty! Praise him!

To our Lord praise we sing, light and life, friend and King,

coming down, love to bring, pattern for our duty, showing God in beauty.

Sing aloud, loud, loud! Sing aloud, loud, loud!

God is good! God is truth! God is beauty! Praise him!

 *(Percy Dearmer, 1867 – 1936, alt)*

**Blessing** May the peace of the Lord Christ go with us,
 wherever He may send us.
 May He guide us through the wilderness,
 and protect us through the storm.
 May He bring us home rejoicing
 at the wonders He has shown us.
 May He bring us home rejoicing
 once again into our doors.

**And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among us and those whom we love, now and for ever. Amen**

**Dismissal** Go in peace, joy and love to serve the Lord as He will show you.

 **In the name of Christ Amen**

***Concluding music:***

*There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God’s own Son, precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.*

*Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son, and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done. When I stand in glory, I will see his face, and there I’ll serve my King for ever, in that holy place. Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son, and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done. (Melody Green, b. 1946)*

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