**Morning Praise @ Home 13th March 2022**

**Opening prayer**

Blessed are you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have blessed us with every spiritual blessing; enable us by your power to be true to our calling and live holy and blameless lives before you all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen**

**Confession** Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and**

**repent.** **Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us**

**from our sin.** **Renew a right spirit within us** **and restore us to the joy of your salvation,** **through**

**Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen** cf Psalm 51

**Absolution** May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image

to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Bible Readings Psalm 27 Luke 13:31 – end

**Reflection from Ruth**

This picture of the hen and the chickens is the strongest statement so far in Luke of what Jesus thinks his death would be all about. But before we examine it further, we should go back to the earlier part of the passage. If chicks are in mind then the other great danger alongside fire was the predator, particularly the fox. And that’s the image Jesus uses for Herod.  
Jesus clearly indicates his contempt for Herod. Everyone knew, after all, that his only claim to royalty was because the Romans, recognizing his father as the most effective thug around, had promoted him from nowhere to keep order at the far end of their territories. Jesus also strongly affirms his own strange vocation: yes, he will eventually die at the hands of the authorities, but no, it won’t be in Galilee. Herod will have an indirect hand in it, but he remains a minor player. What matters is that Jesus has a destiny to fulfil, as he has already stated. It consists, in picture-language, of two days’ work and one day’s completion.  
Jesus’ destiny, then, is to go to Jerusalem and die, risking the threats of the fox, and adopting the role of the mother hen to the chickens faced with sudden danger. But will Jerusalem benefit from his offer? Jerusalem has a long history of rebelling against God, refusing the way of peace.  
What can we see from the vantage point of the end of chapter 13? We can see, with devastating clarity, what Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem is going to mean. Israel’s greatest crisis is coming upon her, and he is offering an urgent summons to repent, to come his kingdom-way, his way of peace. This is the only way of avoiding the disaster which will otherwise follow her persistent rebellion. Jesus’ intention now, in obedience to his vocation, is to go to Jerusalem and, like the hen with the chickens, to take upon himself the full force of that disaster which he was predicting for the nation and the Temple. The one will give himself on behalf of the many.

**Affirmation of faith**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ

known in the world? **We believe and trust in him. This is the faith of the Church.**

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

**Prayers of intercession led by Philip**

Father we bring to you the people of Ukraine. We pray for compassion and for a cessation of the aggression from Russia. The images we have seen are incomprehensible. Help us to do all we can to assist and we ask that our government will ensure that refugees are treated with compassion and flexibility to ensure they can reach safety.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord watching the news has become painfully addictive. It almost feels as though we lack compassion if we do not check the TV, the ipad or the iphone for the latest. Lord help us to let go and leave the situation in your hands so that we are able to take some time out to relax and decompress.

Lord help those who are feeling increased anxiety or fear because of the conflict. Help those who were already struggling with mental health issues following the pandemic and the lockdowns. Even for those who might not call it a mental health issue, help us all to find mindfulness and a positive approach despite the mess of recent and current world events.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Even before the crisis in Ukraine, it was clear that energy prices were soaring. Now those rises are escalating and look set to affect all parts of the world economy. Lord we are worried about the impact of rising costs on poverty, at home and abroad. We pray for those families worried by debt and facing difficult decisions on feeding their families and heating their homes.

We pray for those who are struggling to make ends meet and who are so scared at the prospect of further rises in living costs. Help us to see how we might help others less fortunate through foodbanks and other community projects.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We heard last week that the advertisement for a new vicar was now in The Church Times. Lord we ask for your guidance to the potential candidates. We ask that your will is done to find the right person to work here and that we might realise your will when they walk through the door, however long the process might take.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We think of all those we know who have suffered recent bereavement. We thank you for the service of thanksgiving held here last week for your servant Sue Church and pray for John and the family.

We pray for others we know who are in poor health, mentally or physically. We pause to consider those known to us.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our Queen Elizabeth in her Jubilee year. We pray for her health and thank you for the example of her life-long service to you and to her country.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

**The Lord’s Prayer** As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

***Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come,******Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen***

**Closing prayer**

God give you grace to become the people He has called you to be,

that you may live and work to his praise and glory,

and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

be with us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**