**Morning Praise @ Home Sunday 3rd October 2021**

**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 Genesis 2:18-24 Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

**Reflection by Ruth**

One of the most dramatic stories in the Old Testament concerns the royal succession. King David was very old, and everybody knew he couldn’t last much longer. He had a great many sons and daughters. One of his sons, Adonijah, got together with the head of the army and one of the senior priests and had himself proclaimed as king without David knowing. But David had promised his wife Bathsheba that her son, Solomon, would be king; and, when David heard what had happened, he had Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint Solomon king instead. Everything turned on the question: who did the king intend to rule in the kingdom that was to come? That’s the question that the Hebrews now faced–only, instead of a kingdom to be ruled by a new king after the old one had died, it’s all about the new world that is yet to be, and the way in which God intends that this coming world should be ruled. As verse 5 says, ‘the world to come’ is the main subject both of this passage and of the whole letter; that’s why ‘hope’ is such a powerful theme throughout the entire book. And the thrust of a good deal of the argument is that, in Jesus the Messiah, this hope has burst into the world already, bringing sure signs of the new world that will eventually come to be.
In the coming world, God intends that the original order of creation should finally be realized: the world is to be ruled, wisely and creatively, by human beings who themselves live in trusting obedience to God himself. In Genesis 1 and 2, Adam and Eve are given charge of the garden and the animals. This role, though corrupted in all sorts of ways through the ‘fall’ in Genesis 3, is reaffirmed in Psalm 8, from which Hebrews now quotes. What are human beings? asks the Psalm. Why does God treat them in such a special way, when they are so obviously small and insignificant in terms of the wider creation? The answer is mysterious and powerful: humans seem at the moment to be lower than the angels, a lesser order of beings, but God intends that they should become the world’s true governors. That’s what being ‘crowned with glory and honour’ means.
But, says Hebrews, this clearly hasn’t happened yet. Humans are not ruling the world, bringing God’s order and justice to bear on the whole of creation. Everything is still in a state of semi-chaos. How then can this Psalm be taken seriously? The answer is that it has happened – in the case of Jesus. He is the representative of the human race. His exaltation as Lord, after his earthly ministry, suffering and death (in which he was indeed ‘lower than the angels’) has placed him in the role marked out from the beginning for the human race. He has gone ahead of the rest of us into God’s future, the future in which order and justice-saving order, healing justice will come to the world.

Jesus represents Israel, as its Messiah; and, since Israel was designed, in God’s purpose, to be the people who would represent the whole world, he also represents that much larger community. As a result, he can stand in for them, doing for them what they couldn’t do for themselves. Hebrews here puts it in a nutshell: in his suffering of death, Jesus has, by God’s grace, been enabled ‘to taste death on behalf of everyone’.
And we can celebrate the fact, which is central to all Christianity, that in Jesus God has already dealt with death on our behalf, and is already ruling the world as its rightful Lord.

**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 ask for your compassion as we think of the murder of Sarah Everard. We pray for her family & all those who feel traumatised by her murder.

The trial of her murderer, himself a police officer, has made us all feel sick & wonder how such a thing can happen. We worry about confidence in the Police service, particularly for women & we worry about the service itself. We ask you to understand our anger & upset. We ask that all those who work tirelessly for law and justice, in the police service and outside it, are given your strength and support.

 As the week has seen news of issues at petrol stations and in supermarkets, we ask for calm among those scared they will miss out. We ask that you will help us realise what we really need and to avoid self-centred actions. Help us to keep a sense of perspective and to avoid unnecessary actions.

Father we pray for this church as we seek a new Vicar. Help us to pull together and to support each other. Help us to seek your kingdom here and to do all we can to give love and support to each other and to continue to reach out into our community as it comes together again after months apart due to Covid.

We pray for all those involved in the search for a new vicar. We pray for wisdom and discernment, here, in the Diocese and also for potential candidates. We pray for the candidate whom only you know will work here and that they will feel your guidance in the decision they make.

 We thank you for Cathy’s new role and ask you to be with her and Steve as they enter a new phase in their lives. We thank you for her service to this community and for Steve’s support and friendship to so many of us.

We pray for any we know who might be in need of your prayers this week.

We ask for your support in the coming week and indeed in the months ahead as we head into Autumn. Lord give us your strength as the days grow shorter and as the weather turns colder. Give us your strength to serve you and live lives worthy of you, in your name. Amen

**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**