**Morning Praise @ Home 21st November 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 Psalm 93 John 18:33 – 37

**Reflection from Ruth**

In answer to Pilate’s question, Jesus points out that if his kingdom were of the normal type, his followers would fight to stop him being handed over. They nearly did, of course, and he had to restrain them

(18.10–11); Peter needed to learn the lesson Jesus was now teaching Pilate, and it would take nothing less than the resurrection to get it through to him. But Jesus is indeed claiming to be a king, even though he isn’t the sort of king that Judas Maccabaeus was, that Herod the Great was, still less the sort that Caesar was. This was why he had come in the first place. He was, in fact, speaking and bringing the truth. Truth isn’t something that you get out of a test tube, or a mathematical formula. We don’t have truth in our pockets. Philosophers and judges don’t own it. It is a gift, a strange quality that, like Jesus’ kingdom in fact, comes from elsewhere but is meant to take up residence in this world. Jesus has come to give evidence about this truth. He is himself the truth.

The truth that belongs with Passover. The truth that says one man dies and the others go free. Barabbas, the brigand, perhaps himself either a would-be king or a supporter of someone else’s failed messianic movement, faces the gallows as well.

Somehow, through the cynicism, the casual local custom, the misunderstandings, the distortions, the plots and schemes and betrayals and denials, the Truth stands there in person, taking the death that would otherwise have fallen on the brigand. Pilate didn’t see it at the time. Even cunning Caiaphas probably didn’t appreciate the irony of the point. But John wants us to see it. This is what the cross will mean. This is what truth is and does. Truth is what Jesus is; and Jesus is dying for Barabbas, and for Israel, and for the world. And for you and me.

**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 Ruth**

As we prepare for Advent, we pray for all peoples in the world at this time of approaching festivities. We pray for, and remember those who will find it difficult to celebrate Christmas this year. We pray for those who are lonely at this time of year. For those who have no family or friends. For those who cannot get out of their house and meet people day-to-day.

We pray for all who suffer at this time of year, from loneliness, from cold, from rejection by others. Lord, we bring before you all those who society rejects, because of illness – physical or mental. Those who have different beliefs, different colour of skin, or those who simply choose to be different. You sent your Son to bring joy and comfort to all men, we pray that we may help fulfil His mission at this time of the year.

We pray for our church during the interregnum.We pray for all who choose to lead people in whatever capacity, large or small. May you guide them with Your Love, help them with Your compassion, and support them in their work. We pray for all who work harder at this time of the year to help and support those less well off than others.

We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Christmas can be a difficult time of year for many people, separated from their loved ones because of work, because they are ill in hospital, or because they are unable to join in festivities for whatever reason. May You bring the Peace and Joy which Christ came into the world to bring into their hearts this year.

We remember those we hold in our hearts. We are sure of a life still to come, beyond death. We pray for those who are left behind, who mourn loved friends and relations.  Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench.  We remember before God those who have died and light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ, which eternally shines and brings hope. We remember …

You turn our darkness into light: in your light shall we see light.

**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**