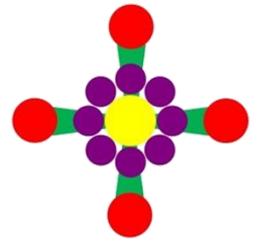


The Benefice of
Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth, Denholme
Sunday 10 July 2022



The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Alison leads us in our worship

Preparation

The Lord is here
His Spirit is with us

Greeting

Your creation gives thanks to you, O God.
And we, your faithful, bless you.
We shall speak of the glory of your realm and
tell of your power.
We shall let all people know your mighty deeds
and glorious splendour.

Call to Worship

Generous God, you give us what we need
and satisfy our desires in due season.
Grant that our inner beings may be strengthened
through your Spirit,
and that Christ may dwell in our hearts
through faith,
that you may accomplish within us
far more than all we ask or can imagine.
Amen.

Opening Prayer

God so loved the world
that he sent his only Son, Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins.
Let us then confess our sins to Almighty God.

Prayers of Penitence

**God, you uphold those who are falling
and raise up all who are bowed down.
Therefore, we confess our sins—
both things we have done and
things we have left undone—
in every confidence that
you will open your hands to us
in an embrace of forgiveness and love.
Amen.**

Absolution

Dearly beloved,
through the power of the Spirit that is at work within us
God forgives our sins and strengthens our inner beings.
So now live knowing the love of Christ,
which surpasses all knowledge
and fills us with the fullness of God.
Amen.

The Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father;
We worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world.
Have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
Receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

O God, the protector of all who trust in you
Without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
Increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
That with you as our ruler and guide
We may so pass through things temporal
That we lose not our hold on things eternal;
Grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading: Colossians 1:1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow-servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Thanks be to God for the gift of his word

Gospel reading: Luke 10:25-37

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.' But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

Thanks be to God for the gift of his Holy Word

Reflection from Richard

Paul begins his letter to the Colossian Church by saying: "In our prayers for you we always thank God ..."

As a priest, prayer is a very important part of the rhythm of each day, and as the Rector of the benefice, I, just like Paul always hold the people of the benefice in my prayers.

So know that whatever you are doing and whatever you are facing, you are prayed for in my prayers every day. It is very special for me to hold you before God.

Before Covid, each morning and evening some of the clergy met each day in our churches for Morning and Evening Prayer. When the first Lockdown came it was very natural for us to move online and since March 2020, we have said Morning

Prayer at 8am and Evening Prayer at 5pm on our Benefice Facebook Page. And soon after we began we added in Night Prayer too at 9pm each evening.

And it has been great to see so many people join us, either live or watching later as fits in with their day. Around 100 people a day join us! Some from well beyond the Benefice boundaries!

Prayer is such a good thing to do.

Our Gospel Reading today is the story of the Good Samaritan. In it, Jesus reminds us of our calling to love our neighbour. And he highlights to us that our neighbours include those we find it very hard to love.

But what better way to begin our love for those we find it most difficult to love, than to bring them to God in prayer.

When you next pray, make a particular point of praying for those you find it most difficult to love. It may be politicians or other national figures, it may be people who live near you or even members of your own family. Think about them and pray for them, holding them before God. And be ready to be surprised at what happens!

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus 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 should bow,
And very tongue proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
To the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession with Margaret Harrison

Loving God, the Father of us all, we pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ, for the church which is your family on earth today. We pray especially for the part of your family here in our benefice, for our clergy and leaders and our congregations that we may grow in friendship, unity, and mutual support.

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

At the beginning of the holiday season we pray for our families, friends, and colleagues, that they may have a happy and refreshing time. Lord Christ be with all who travel by land, sea, or air. As they journey keep them in your love, may their way be guarded and protected from all evil. Guide their going out and returning, for you are our true destination and the pilgrimage which directs the course of our lives now and always.

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

Lord whose majesty is above the heavens guide with your Holy Spirit those who hold the highest offices of state. Give them wisdom as they struggle with the concerns of the day. Strengthen them to do what is right and give them honesty in their dealings, dignity which extends to all and a desire to strive for the common good so that all people may rejoice in your liberty in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

As supreme commander of us all, we ask you to bless the efforts of all peace makers and peace keepers. Guide those now involved in fighting in Ukraine and other war zones around the world. Give courage to their families back home anxiously waiting. May all hostility cease, and, Lord, be with those victims who are not part of the conflict but are caught in the crossfire and bring them aid. We ask these things in the name of Jesus through whom alone is everlasting peace with you.

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

Remembering the areas of unrest and disasters in the world, both natural and human made, and all those still suffering from events no longer in the news, for

those killed and injured in the shooting incidents in Copenhagen and America, those affected by the avalanche in Italy and the flooding in Australia, we pray for them and their families, and for all in our benefice in special need of your loving care at this time, for those who are sick, lonely or anxious and for those who have lost someone they loved – those known to us personally, and for those unknown to us but always known by you. We ask you to be especially close to them – enabling those helping and caring for them to have the necessary skills and compassion to bring healing and comfort and help us to give support and to share our resources as best we can.

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

Heavenly Father, by your grace and through the love and witness of your people, may those who are seeking you find you, and those who have found you grow in faith, and those who trust in you be drawn deeper into communion with each other and you.

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

The Peace

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with us all.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven
Hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done
On earth as it is 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.**

Eternal God,
Comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken,
You have fed us at the table of life and hope:
Teach us the ways of gentleness and peace,
That all the world may acknowledge
The kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Strengthen for service Lord, the hands of your people;
May the ears which have heard your word
Be deaf to clamour and dispute;
May the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit;
May the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love
Shine with the light of hope;
And may the bodies which have been fed with your body
Be refreshed with the fullness of your life;
Glory to you for ever.

Amen.

Blessing

We have been upheld and raised up by our God.
May God continue to strengthen your inner being
and carry you out into the splendour of God's kingdom.
And the Blessing of God Almighty, The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
rest upon you and those you love, today and always.

Amen.

Sending Out

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the Name of Christ! Amen!