**St Nicholas’ Church, North Walsham**

**Morning Worship**

**20th September 2020**

**Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**

**Service led by: Jo Haywood (Benefice Ordinand)**

**Preacher: Rev Valerie Watts**

**The Greeting**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ   
be with you

All and also with you. *cf 1 Timothy 1:2*

This is the day that the Lord has made.

All Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Words of welcome

Opening Prayer

Lord, speak to us  
**that we may hear your word.**Move among us  
**that we may behold your glory.**Receive our prayers  
**that we may learn to trust you.  
Amen.**

**Hymn For the fruits of all creation**

(SP110 Ar Hyd y nos)

For the fruit(s) of all creation,

thanks be to God;

for the gifts of every nation,

thanks be to God;

for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,

silent growth while we are sleeping,

future needs in earth's safe-keeping,

thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour,

God's will is done;

in the help we give our neighbour,

God's will is done;

in our world-wide task of caring

for the hungry and despairing,

in the harvests we are sharing,

God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit,

thanks be to God;

for the good we all inherit,

thanks be to God;

for the wonders that astound us,

for the truths that still confound us,

most of all that love has found us,

thanks be to God.

**Prayers of Penitence**

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross

so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness;

by his wounds we have been healed.

Let us confess our sins.

*cf 1 Peter 2:24*

**Most merciful God,**

**Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**we confess that we have sinned**

**in thought, word and deed.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**In your mercy**

**forgive what we have been,**

**help us to amend what we are**

**and direct what we shall be;**

**that we may do justly,**

**love mercy,**

**and walk humbly with you, our God.**

**Amen**

May God who loved the world so much

that he sent his Son to be our Saviour

forgive us *our* sins

and make *us* holy to serve him in the world

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**The Collect:**

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit

upon your church in the burning fire of your love:

grant that your people may be fervent

in the fellowship of the gospel, that, always abiding in you,

they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**The Liturgy of the Word**

**The First Reading** Jonah 3.10-4.11

**10**When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

**4**But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. **2**He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. **3**And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” **4**And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” **5**Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. **6**The Lord God appointed a bush,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+3.10-4.11&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-22575a)] and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. **7**But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. **8**When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” **9**But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” **10**Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. **11**And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 145.1-8**

**1** I will extol you, my God and King,  
     and bless your name forever and ever.

**2 Every day I will bless you,  
     and praise your name forever and ever.**

**3** Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
     his greatness is unsearchable.

**4 One generation shall laud your works to another,  
     and shall declare your mighty acts.**

**5** On the glorious splendour of your majesty,  
     and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

**6 The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,  
     and I will declare your greatness.**

**7** They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,  
     and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

**8 The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
     slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning is now**

**and shall be for ever.**

**Amen.**

**The Second Reading** Matthew 20.1-16

**20**“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. **2**After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+20%3A1-16&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-23793a)] he sent them into his vineyard. **3**When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; **4**and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. **5**When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. **6**And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ **7**They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ **8**When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ **9**When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+20%3A1-16&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-23800b)] **10**Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+20%3A1-16&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-23801c)] **11**And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, **12**saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ **13**But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+20%3A1-16&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-23804d)] **14**Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. **15**Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+20%3A1-16&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-23806e)] **16**So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+20%3A1-16&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-23807f)]

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Sermon**

**The Creed**

**I** **believe in God, the Father almighty,   
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,   
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,   
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,   
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,   
the holy catholic Church,   
the communion of saints,   
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Hymn From heaven you came, helpless babe,**

(SP153: Tune: The Servant King)

From heaven you came, helpless babe,  
entered our world, your glory veiled  
not to be served, but to serve  
and give your life that we might live.

*This is our God, The Servant King  
he calls us now to follow Him  
to bring our lives as a daily offering  
of worship to The Servant King*

There in the garden of tears,  
my heavy load he chose to bear;  
his heart with sorrow was torn,  
'Yet not My will but Yours,' he said

Come, see his hands and his feet,  
the scars that speak of sacrifice,  
hands that flung stars into space  
to cruel nails surrendered

So let us learn how to serve,

and in our lives enthrone him;

each other’s needs to prefer,

for it is Christ we’re serving.

**Prayers of Intercession**

We conclude our time of prayer with the words of The Lord’s Prayer:

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 this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

**Hymn Sing of the Lord’s Goodness**

(SP309)

Sing of the Lord’s goodness, Father of all wisdom,  
come to him and bless his name.  
mercy he has shown us, his love is for ever,

faithful to the end of days.

*Come then all you nations, sing of your Lord’s goodness,*

*melodies of praise and thanks to God.  
            Ring out the Lord’s glory, praise him with your music,  
            worship him and bless his name.*

Power he has wielded, honour is his garment,  
risen from the snares of death.  
His word he has spoken, one bread he has broken,  
new life he now gives to all.

Courage in our darkness, comfort in our sorrow,  
Spirit of our God most high;  
solace for the weary, pardon for the sinner,  
splendour of the living God.

Praise him with your singing, praise him with the trumpet,  
praise God with the lute and harp;  
praise him with the cymbals, praise him with your dancing,  
praise God till the end of days.

**Conclusion**

Lord Jesus Christ,

you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,

and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation;

give us the courage to follow you

and to proclaim you as Lord and King,

to the glory of God the Father.

Let us bless the Lord:

**thanks be to God.**

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,**

**here and everywhere,**

**now and for ever  
Amen.**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**In the name of Christ, Amen**

Organ Voluntaries: Music by Buxtehude

Organist: Jo Richards (music requests: 01603 960171 or [jorich6666@gmail.com](mailto:jorich6666@gmail.com))

Words reproduced with permission under CCL licence no 55968. Our streaming licence number is the same.