**Morning Worship for 5th December 2021**

***As we begin this act of worship let us remember all those not able to be with us who are joining us in their own homes, we remember that there are many friends who are doing the same and are joining with us in worship. For those of you at home If you have you-tube then please find an appropriate version of the suggested hymns and join in the singing on-line. As you go through this time of worship try to remember this reality; you are in the presence of God who holds us all in His care and keeping.***

**The Greeting:**

**We thank you, O Lord our God, for making us rise from our beds**

**And setting upon our lips these words of praise**

**So we may worship you and call upon your holy Name.**

**As you have continually blessed our lives with goodness and mercy**

**So we pray to you now: send your help**

**To those who stand in your holy and glorious presence**

**Awaiting your abundant mercy;**

**And may those who have served you unceasingly**

**In love and awe, praise, worship and adore your unutterable goodness.**

**For to you belong all glory, honour and praise,**

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit,**

**Now and for ever, to the ages of ages. Amen.**

**Collect for the day:**

O Lord, raise up, we pray,

Your power and come among us,

And with great might succour us;

That whereas, through our sins and wickedness

We are grievously hindered in running the race

That is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy

May speedily help and deliver us;

Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

To whom with you and the Holy Spirit,

Be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Our Declaration of faith**

**All the earth, shout and sing for joy,**

**For great in your midst is the Holy One.**

**Behold, God is my salvation,**

**I will trust and will not be afraid;**

**For the Lord God is my strength and my song,**

**And has become my salvation.**

**With joy you will draw water**

**From the wells of salvation.**

**On that day you will say,**

**Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name;**

**Make known his deeds among the nations,**

**Proclaim that his name is exalted.**

**Sing God’s praises, who has triumphed gloriously,**

**Let this be known in all the world.**

**Shout and sing for joy, you that dwell in Zion,**

**For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

**All the earth, shout and sing for joy,**

**For great in your midst is the Holy One.**

*Isaiah 12: 2-6*

**Hymn:** Hail to the Lord’s anointed.

**Readings**: Malachi 3:1-4, Philippians 1:3-11,

**Hymn**: Long ago prophet’s knew.

**Gospel Reading**: Mark 1:1-8.

**Reflection:** This will be delivered by the Leader in church.

(For those at home a reflection will be sent through separately by Clive.)

**Hymn:** O God our help in ages past.

**Prayers for others:** This morning let us pause for prayer for so many people and for so many situations.

We come boldly to the throne of grace,

Praying to the almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, as we pray today for all who have given witness to Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for their devotion, for their endurance and for the trust they had in you to deliver your people from darkness. Hear us as we pray for all who in today’s world seek to do the same in order that your will and purpose be known throughout the world.

We pray for your Church as it continues to promote your name in and through Christ Jesus our Lord, we pray for all being attracted to the faith at this time, and we pray that we may learn to welcome them fully seeking to respond to their needs and so strengthen the life and witness of your faithful people.

We pray for the nations of the world and every attempt by those in authority seeking to restore peace and order within their societies whilst attempting to address all the difficulties placed upon them by the Corona Virus. We hold in our prayers all whose health, wellbeing, livelihood and financial security are affected at this time.

As we pray for all faithful communities we unite together as one in the Lord Jesus, help us to be bold, to be strong, yet also to be compassionate as Jesus was, may we bring peace and comfort into the hearts of his people today.

We pray especially at this time for all who are in any form of authority, whether it be political, social, educational or moral. We are called to recognise that all authority rests within your divine provenance. May those who exercise authority in our midst do so for the greater good of all humanity whilst bearing in mind the long term effects of any decisions on the future viability of the world in which we live.

As we continue to live in a world of change, we pray that you will send down your Holy Spirit upon us, that we may be guided to respond to your call, be prepared to be directed into new approaches that will enable the societies of the world to flourish and to stay safe and secure from illness and pain.

Father hear us as we continue to pray for the NHS with all the pressures and strains still upon it, that they would receive all the protection and supplies they need, that they would experience God’s protection in their work, courage for each day and stamina to care for all those who are so dependent upon them. For the sick and vulnerable that they would receive the care they need in their hour of weakness.

We pray especially for all those known to us from our own worshipping community and indeed from within the communities in which we live, especially for those whom have approached us for prayer at this time. And finally, we hold before you all whom have lost loved ones recently, may they be comforted by your love, and supported throughout their time of sadness.

And so we pray

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as 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.

**Hymn:** Jesus shall reign**.**

**A Song of God’s Chosen One:**

**The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,**

**The spirit of wisdom and understanding.**

There shall come forth a shoot from the stock of Jesse,

And a branch shall grow out of his roots.

**And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,**

**The spirit of wisdom and understanding.**

The spirit of counsel and might,

The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

**He shall not judge by what his eyes see,**

**Or decide by what his ears hear,**

But with righteousness he shall judge the poor,

And decide with equity for the meek of the earth.

**The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,**

**And the leopard shall lie down with the kid.**

The calf and the lion cub together,

With a little child to lead them.

**They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,**

**For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord**

**As the waters cover the sea.**

**The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,**

**The spirit of wisdom and understanding.**

**Blessing:**

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,

Defend you on every side,

And guide you in truth and peace;

And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**