

Teign Valley & Haldon Hill Mission Community
Scattered Church: Worship at home on 07/12/25

Hymn

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts,
shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Bernadette Farrell b. 1957

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

We meet in the presence of God
who knows our needs,
hears our cries,
feels our pain,
and heals our wounds.

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'
So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

cf John 1.23

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 the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw us to himself and cleanse us from all our sins,
that we may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and God. **Amen.**

Readings

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in 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;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the
wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw
like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on
the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of
him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.
This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Romans 15:4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness
and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness
and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ
Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell
you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that
he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify
God for his mercy. As it is written,
'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name';
and again he says,

‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’; and again,
‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him’;
and again Isaiah says,
‘The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.’

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

‘I baptise you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

(Dial 01647 407047 to hear it again during the week)

Affirmation of faith

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Spirit.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;**

through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Intercessions

The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us
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.

The Peace

God will speak peace to his people,
to those who turn to him in their hearts.

cf Psalm 85.8; 1 Samuel 12.20

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Notices

Eternal God, our beginning and our end,
accompany us in this day's journey.
Dawn on our darkness,
open our eyes to praise you for your creation
and to see the work you set before us today.

**Take us and use us
to bring to others the new life you give in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of Almighty God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be among you and
remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn

Hark, a herald voice is sounding:
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say.
"Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!"

Startled at the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heav'n;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
to the Father and the Son,
with the co-eternal Spirit,
while unending ages run.

William Henry Monk 1823-1889

Teign Valley & Haldon Hill Mission Community Services

Telephone Services

(Call 0333 0110 616; code 334 7721)

Wednesdays at 6pm: Evening Prayer

Sundays at 9am: Sunday Worship – a half hour Service of the Word: hymns, readings and prayers

Church Services

Dec 7 Advent 2

10.30am MC HC St Michael Doddiscombsleigh

10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford

Dec 14 Advent 3

10.30am MC HC St Thomas Becket Bridford

10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford

3.30pm Christingle St Michael & All Angels Dunchideock

Dec 17	4.00pm Doddiscombsleigh Community Christmas
Dec 21 Advent 4	6.30pm Carol Service St James Christow
	10.30am MC HC St James Christow
	5.00pm Carol Service St Michael Doddiscombsleigh
Christmas Eve	6.30pm Carol Service St Mary Dunsford
	4.00pm Crib Service St Mary Dunsford
	6.00pm Carol Service St Thomas Becket Bridford
	9.00pm Christmas Night HC St Michael & All Angels Dunchideock
	10.00pm Carol Service St John the Baptist Ashton
	10.00pm Christmas Midnight HC St Michael Doddiscombsleigh
	10.00pm Christmas Midnight HC St Mary Dunsford
Christmas Day	10.30am Christmas morning HC St James Christow
	10.30am Christmas Family Service St Mary Dunsford
Dec 28 Christmas 1	10.30am MC HC St Michael & All Angels Dunchideock
	10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford

2026

Jan 4 Epiphany	10.30am HC St John the Baptist Ashton
	10.30am HC St Michael Doddiscombsleigh
	10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford
Jan 11 Baptism of Christ	10.30am HC St Thomas Becket Bridford
	10.30am HC St Michael & All Angels Dunchideock
	10.30am Family Service St Mary Dunsford

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