

**Morning Worship for Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup>**

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Ascension.**

*Welcome*

Welcome to the Hook Norton Benefice Morning Worship for Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup>. Today our hymns are from the Church of England's recordings.

Let's just take a few moments to prepare ourselves for worship...

*Keith:* God of life, you summon the day to dawn  
And all of us to create with you.  
You are the Rock from which all earth is fashioned  
You are the Food from which all souls are fed  
You are the Source who is creation's head.  
Feed us now as we worship you.

***Greeting***

*Keith:* Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.  
Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.

***All:* Know that the Lord is God.  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

*Keith:* Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.

***All:* For the Lord is good and his love endures for ever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

*Psalm 100*

*Keith:* The Lord is with us.

**All:** Let us praise his name together. Amen.

**Hymn – Crown Him with many crowns**

*Recorded remotely by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields in their homes and edited together.*

- 1 Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;  
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.
- 2 Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,  
those wounds yet visible above in beauty glorified:  
no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends his burning – eye at mysteries so bright.
- 3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a sceptre sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and  
praise:  
his reign shall know no end, and round his piercèd feet  
fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.
- 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time,  
creator of the rolling spheres ineffably sublime:  
all hail, Redeemer, hail! for thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

*Matthew Bridges (1800-1894)*

***Our Confession***

*Keith:* The Spirit of the Lord fills the world and knows our every word  
and deed. Let us then open ourselves to the Lord and confess  
our sins in penitence and faith.

*A moment of silence and stillness to reflect on the past week...*

*We confess our sins together saying*

**All: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse our hearts, by the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we may fully love you, and praise your holy name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

*Keith:* May the Father forgive each of us by the death of his ascended Son and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days.

**Amen.**

***First Reading***

**Peace and hope**

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

*Romans 5:1-8*

*Reader:* This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn - How sweet the name of Jesus sounds*

- 1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds  
in a believer's ear!  
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,  
and drives away his fear.
  
- 2 It makes the wounded spirit whole,  
and calms the troubled breast;  
'tis manna to the hungry soul,  
and to the weary rest.
  
- 3 Dear name! the rock on which I build,  
my shield and hiding-place,  
my never-failing treasury filled  
with boundless stores of grace.
  
- 4 Jesus! my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,  
my Prophet, Priest, and King,  
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,  
accept the praise I bring.
  
- 5 Weak is the effort of my heart,  
and cold my warmest thought;  
but when I see thee as thou art,  
I'll praise thee as I ought.
  
- 6 `Till then I would thy love proclaim  
with every fleeting breath;  
and may the music of thy name  
refresh my soul in death.

*John Newton (1725-1807)*

***Second Reading***

*Reader:* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

***All:***     **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**The workers are few**

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and illness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’

**Jesus sends out the Twelve**

Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and illness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ‘Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: “The kingdom of heaven has come near.” Heal those who are ill, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

*Matthew 9:35 to 10:8*

Reader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*A reflection from Janet Collins*

***Creed***

*Keith: Let us declare our faith in God and in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ by saying together*

**All: We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, he died alone and forsaken.**

**He descended into the earth to the place of death. On the third day he rose from the tomb.**

**He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present throughout all ages, and His kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit burning with Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the Church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of all resurrection and of eternal life.**

***Amen***

*From the Community of Iona*

***Our prayers led by John and Rita Wheatley***

*... at the end we say together*

**All: Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Keith: We join together in **The Collect** followed by **The Lord's Prayer***

**All: God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son.**

**All: 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.**

***Dismissal***

*Keith: As we go about our daily lives, let us go with confidence in the one who gave his life for us, facing each day with the peace and the love of God in our hearts knowing that we are justified by faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

***Hymn - I, the Lord of sea and sky***

*Recorded remotely by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields in their homes and edited together.*

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*Chorus*

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*Chorus*

***The Blessing***

*Keith:* And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father the Son and Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Keith:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All:** In the name of Christ. **Amen.**