



# Connection

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021**  
**Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity**



## **Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
increase in us your gift of faith  
that, forsaking what lies behind  
and reaching out to that which is before,  
we may run the way of your commandments  
and win the crown of everlasting joy;  
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**

## **Hebrews 1: 1-4; 2: 5-12**

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, 'What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honour, subjecting all things under their feet.' Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.'

### **Mark 10: 2-16**

Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?' He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' They said, 'Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.' But Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.' Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. Jesus said to them, 'Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.' People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast:  
for here we receive you,  
here the memory of your passion is renewed,  
here our minds are filled with grace,  
and here a pledge of future glory is given,  
when we shall feast at that table where you reign  
with all your saints for ever.

**Amen**

### **Reflection**

The sermon this week is from Karen Chaplin, Reader in the Halas Team in Halesowen.

You can listen to the podcast at [www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/your-faith/prayer-worship/sermon-podcasts](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/your-faith/prayer-worship/sermon-podcasts)



Just as the English language does not contain seventeen different words for snow, neither does it really have the capacity to fully describe the mystery which is the Incarnation, the Word Made Flesh. Notwithstanding, in this extract from the letter to the Hebrews, the writer of the letter and the various translating bodies have made a serious attempt to encapsulate Jesus' mission not just on earth but through all eternity.

Already we run into that very problem of vocabulary. Is "mission" eternal or is it earth-bound and temporal? Perhaps "purpose", or even "being" would be better words to allude to Jesus whose identity is perfectly at harmony with his purpose; who is what he does.

The writer of the letter has identified five key features of Jesus' purpose or being. He is:

- The source and means and sustainer of creation;
- The image of God;
- The redress of all that has gone wrong;
- The restorer of the broken relationship between creation and the creator;
- Now crowned over everything that is.

Crowned, Jesus' mission is accomplished, his identity fully completed and revealed. And, here we have hope. The letter-writer observes, "at present we do not see everything subject to him". Looking around us now, we may well concur with that, sadly. But we do see Jesus crowned, by the Father, with glory and honour; we remember this week by week in the sharing of bread and wine, and we celebrate it each year at Easter and Ascension. And surely God, who began this great work in and through Jesus, will complete it in the restoration of those who are made holy through Jesus. That is us.

## Harvest Time



### Collect

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness  
and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:  
grant that we may use them to your glory,  
for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being;  
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**

### Joel 2: 21-27

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things! Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield. O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing-floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

### Matt 6: 23-33

But if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! "No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and wine of the kingdom:

by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us  
and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Requests for Prayers**



God of the heavens and the earth,  
You call us to share in the care of your creation  
and to bring food and fruitfulness from field and  
farm.  
Hear our prayer for all who make their living on the  
land  
and make us grateful for the work of their hands  
and for the generosity of your provision.  
We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

**We pray for all those who are sick everywhere and for those who have asked for our prayers and for their carers:** Roy and Margaret Putnam, Brian Bolam, Yvonne Seward, Laurence Alexander, Ros and Rob, Jo Gunner, David Fenton, Michael Leven and his wife Allison and daughter Sophie, Matt Oliver and his family, Andrea Randles and her husband and daughter, Frances Fairclough and her husband Robin and their children and grandchildren and also for Sky Redfern and her family.

**We continue to pray for:** Percy Blizzard, Jackie Pickford, Clive Hunt.

**We pray for those who are in residential care:** Barbara Milton, Rita Sheppy and David Wilkinson.

**We pray for those who have died everywhere:** Pru Dowson (Elmley) and her family; John Monks (Defford) and his family; Sharon Blizzard (Eckington) and her family. And also for those whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

**If there is someone or something that you would like us to pray for, please email [eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com](mailto:eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com) and we will include them on the prayer list**

## Church Services

The church services this week will be at:

9.00am Bredon's Norton Harvest – Rev Allison  
 10.30am Eckington Harvest – Rev Allison  
 10.30am Beckford Harvest – Rev Katryn  
 10.30am Ashton Under Hill – Lay lead  
 4.00pm Little Comberton Harvest – Rev Katryn



### Rota for October 2021

Date	Time	Place	Presiding
10 <sup>th</sup> October	9.00am	Bricklehampton (BCP HC)	Reverend Katryn
	9.00am	Besford	Bishop Michael Hooper
	10.30am	Elmley Castle (Harvest Service)	Reverend Katryn
	10.30am	Ashton Under Hill (Harvest Service)	Reverend Catherine Lack
	10.30am	Bredon Climate Change	Lay lead
	4.00pm	Overbury (Harvest Service)	Reverend Katryn
17 <sup>th</sup> October	9.00am	Eckington	Reverend Allison
	9.00am	Overbury	Reverend Katryn
	10.30am	Bredon	Reverend Allison
	10.30am	Great Comberton	Reverend Katryn
	4.00pm	Bricklehampton (Harvest)	Reverend Katryn
24 <sup>th</sup> October	9.00am	Elmley Castle	Reverend Katryn
	10.30am	Bredon	Reverend Alison Maddocks
	10.30am	Defford	Reverend Allison
	10.30am	Teddington	Reverend Katryn
31 <sup>st</sup> October United Service	10.30am	Eckington	Reverend Allison and Canon Roger Spiller
	6.00pm	Eckington All Souls'	Lay lead

Midweek Communion at 10am

13<sup>th</sup> October – Overbury – Reverend Katryn Leclezio  
 20<sup>th</sup> October – Little Comberton – Reverend Allison Davies  
 27<sup>th</sup> October – Defford – Reverend Catherine Lack



Rev Allison Davies



Rev Katryn Leclezio