**St John’s, Bourne End 23rd August 2020**

***Welcome and gathering***

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.

Let us recognize his presence with us.

*Silence is kept.*

As God’s people we have gathered:

**let us worship him together.**

***Praise***

**Venite – A Song of Triumph (based on Psalm 95)**

O come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.

**Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving**

**and be glad in him with psalms.**

For the Lord is a great God

and a great king above all gods.

**In his hand are the depths of the earth**

**and the heights of the mountains are his also.**

The sea is his, for he made it,

and his hands have moulded the dry land.

**Come, let us worship and bow down**

**and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

For he is our God;

we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

**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.**

***Confession***

Jesus is our high priest, tempted like us, yet without sin. He lives for ever in heaven to intercede for us. Through him we approach the throne of grace with confidence, and confess our sins. (Hebrews 4.15-16)

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,**

**we have sinned against you,**

**through our own fault,**

**in thought, and word, and deed,**

**and in what we have left undone.**

**We are heartily sorry,**

**and repent of all our sins.**

**For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ’s sake,**

**forgive us all that is past;**

**and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring us his pardon and peace, now and for ever. **Amen.**

***Collect***

**God of glory, the end of our searching,**

**help us to lay aside all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom, and to give all that we have to gain the pearl beyond all price,**

**through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

***Readings***

**Psalm 110**

The Lord says to my lord:

‘Sit at my right hand  
    until I make your enemies  
    a footstool for your feet.’

The Lord will extend your mighty sceptre from Zion, saying,  
    ‘Rule in the midst of your enemies!’  
Your troops will be willing  
    on your day of battle.  
Arrayed in holy splendour,  
    your young men will come to you  
    like dew from the morning’s womb.

The Lord has sworn  
    and will not change his mind:  
‘You are a priest for ever,  
    in the order of Melchizedek.’

The Lord is at your right hand;  
    he will crush kings on the day of his wrath.  
He will judge nations, heaping up the dead  
    and crushing the rulers of the whole earth.  
He will drink from a brook along the way;   
    and so he will lift his head high.

**Hebrews 4.14-5.10**

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to feel sympathy for our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. And no one takes this honour on himself, but he receives it when called by God, just as Aaron was.

In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him,

‘You are my Son;  
    today I have become your Father.’

And he says in another place,

‘You are a priest for ever,  
    in the order of Melchizedek.’

During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

***Talk***

*A Little Bible: Psalms of Hope*

***Thanksgiving***

Let us give thanks to God.

For the love of our Father, the maker of all,

the giver of all good things,

let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

For Jesus Christ our Saviour,

who lived and worked among us,

let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

For his suffering and death on the cross

and his resurrection to new life,

let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

For his rule over all things

and his presence in the world,

let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

For the Holy Spirit, the giver of life,

who teaches and guides us,

let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

For the grace of the Spirit

in the work of the Church

and the life of the world,

let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***Thanksgiving for the offering***

Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power  
and the glory and the majesty and the splendour,  
for everything in heaven and earth is yours

and of your own do we give you. **Amen.**

1 Chronicles 29.11

***Prayers***

**Response:**

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

We gather our prayers together in the words that Jesus taught us:

**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.**

***The Grace***

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.**

***Dismissal***

We go into the world to walk in God’s light, to rejoice in God’s love and to reflect God’s glory.

**In the name of Christ, Amen.**