**St John’s, Bourne End**

**2nd August 2020**

***Welcome and gathering***

We meet in the presence of God

**Who knows our needs**

**Hears our cries**

**Feels our pain**

**And heals our wounds**

Lord God, maker and redeemer of all,

As we come before you this day,

Comfort us with your presence,

Make us attentive to your voice,

And sustain us with the hope of your Kingdom;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

***Praise***

I lift up my eyes to the mountains –  
where does my help come from?  
**My help comes from the Lord,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.**

He will not let your foot slip –  
he who watches over you will not slumber;  
**indeed, he who watches over Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The Lord watches over you –  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;  
**the sun will not harm you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

The Lord will keep you from all harm –  
he will watch over your life;

**the Lord will watch over your coming and going  
both now and for evermore.**

Psalm 121

***Collect***

**Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven**

**and became poor for our sake:**

**when we prosper save us from pride,**

**when we are needy save us from despair,**

**that we may trust in you alone;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***Pause for thought***

We are continuing our sermon series this morning on The Psalms and Jane will be speaking to us on the theme of Psalms of Confession. Psalm 130, today’s reading talks about waiting for the Lord. What are you waiting for? How good are you are waiting?

***Readings***

**Psalm 130**

Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;

Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive

to my cry for mercy.

If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,

Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness,

so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,

and in his word I put my hope.

I wait for the Lord

more than watchmen wait for the morning,

more than watchmen wait for the morning.

Israel, put your hope in the Lord,

for with the Lord is unfailing love

and with him is full redemption.

He himself will redeem Israel

from all their sins.

**1 John 1.5-2.2**

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

***Talk***

*A Little Bible: Psalms of Confession*

***Confession***

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1.8-9

**Lord God, we have sinned against you;**

**we have done evil in your sight.**

**We are sorry and repent.**

**Have mercy on us according to your love.**

**Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.**

**Renew a right spirit within us**

**and restore us to the joy of your salvation,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.**

***Praise***

**Benedictus (Song of Zechariah in Luke 1.68-79*)***

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,

who has come to his people and set them free.

**He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,**

**born of the house of his servant David.**

Through his holy prophets God promised of old

to save us from our enemies,

from the hands of all that hate us,

**To show mercy to our ancestors,**

**and to remember his holy covenant.**

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**Free to worship him without fear,**

**holy and righteous in his sight**

**all the days of our life.**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

**To give his people knowledge of salvation**

**by the forgiveness of all their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,**

**and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**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.**

***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***

Using the opening verses of Psalm 130, we cry out to God for mercy for:

* all affected by the coronavirus crisis
* all who are the victims of injustice in all its forms
* all who are sick or suffering, lonely or grieving

**Response:**

Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;

Lord, hear my voice.

**Let your ears be attentive**

**to my cry for mercy.**

Closing words based on the final verses of Psalm 130:

put your hope in the Lord,

for with the Lord is unfailing love

and with him is full redemption.

**He himself will redeem us**

**from all our sins.**

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.**

***Blessing***

*Why not picture the people from t John’s who you would normally see on a Sunday and pray this blessing for all of your church family?*

**The Lord bless us and keep us;  
the Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us;**

**the Lord turn his face towards us and give us peace. Amen.**

Based on Numbers 6.24-26

***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.**