

## Morning Praise @ Home 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022



### Opening prayer

Blessed are you, Lord our God, you have created the earth and the heavens.  
Blessed are you, Jesus Christ, you came among us and were baptised of John.  
Blessed are you, Holy life giving Spirit, you descend as the dove and fill us with your life.  
Blessed are you, Holy Three. In you we live and move and have our being. **Amen**

**Confession** Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

**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**

*cf Psalm 51*

**Absolution** May the Father of all mercies cleanse *us* from *our* sins, and restore *us* in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Bible Readings

**Isaiah 43: 1 – 7**

**Luke 3: 15 – 17, 21 – 22**

### Reflection from Ruth

Luke, it seems, has come upon a family tree which he presents without comment, simply to declare that Jesus was indeed not only a true Jew but a descendant of David and Zerubbabel – part of the genuinely royal family. He was counted as Joseph's adopted son, which served, it seems, for this purpose (we are never told whether Mary was of royal descent; since she was a cousin of Elisabeth it may be that she was from a priestly family).

This global scope to God's purposes is in the background as Jesus comes to the Jordan to be baptized by John. Luke adds here, as in one or two other key points, the fact that Jesus was praying when the crucial revelation occurred. Part of his constant picture of Jesus is that he was a man of prayer. It's often suggested that the baptism was the moment when Jesus received his first inkling of a messianic calling, but this can hardly be correct; the voice from heaven comes to confirm and give direction to something that has been true all along, as Luke has already told us (2.49). The Spirit and the word together give Jesus the encouragement and strength he needs to begin his short public career. They also give an indication of where that career will take him. The heavenly voice echoes words of Isaiah the prophet (42.1), commissioning the Messiah as the Servant, the one who will suffer and die for the people and the world. Behind that again are echoes of Genesis 22.2, when Abraham was commanded to kill his beloved only son, Isaac. The voice is at the same time a wonderful affirmation of Jesus' vocation and a clear reminder of where it is to lead. Together the baptism story and the family tree tell us where Jesus has come from, who he is, and where he is going. As we make his story our own in our own prayers, and indeed in our own baptism, we too should expect both the fresh energy of the Spirit and the quiet voice which reminds us of God's amazing, affirming love and of the path of vocation which lies ahead.

### Affirmation of faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world? **We believe and trust in him. This is the faith of the Church.**

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### **Prayers of intercession led by Philip**

Lord we thank you for moments over the Christmas period where we were able to enjoy the Christmas celebrations, the presence of friends and family.

We are aware that for many there were limitations on what we were able to do, and for some Christmas can be a painful period as memories of family times past and family and friends no longer with us affect them. So Father we ask for your healing and comfort for those who felt some pain at times during the festive season.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Lord we continue to feel stressed by the ongoing Covid situation and we long for an end to ongoing disruption to all our lives – especially for our children, who have seen disruption to schooling, extended lock down with worried parents and uncertainties about future qualification requirements.

We thank you for the progress with medical treatments and ask for understanding and compassion to all those affected by ongoing illness or the isolation that some continue.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

In the words of The Rend Collective, 'Through all our suffering, you will lead me through; you are the peace in my troubled sea'.

Help us Father as we navigate the vacancy here at Burton and in Shotwick. You are the peace in our troubled sea, in all matters. Carry us through this period, safe to shore.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for the person you guide to be our next vicar Lord. May they know your will and have your vision for our church and the wider communities. We ask for your guidance to them and to those who will be trying to discern your will and to find the right candidate. May your will be done Lord.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Lord we pray for all those in our community who are suffering illness or bereavement. Be with them Lord, comfort them, comfort all of us when we feel alone, ill, frail and wondering what lies next for us. We pause and think of any we might know in need of your care.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for those in care homes who are now subject to lockdowns. Help them as they might feel isolated and unable to undertake visits out of their homes or receive visitors as normal. We pray for an early return to normal access to those in our care homes.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

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

**The Lord's Prayer** As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

***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 today our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen***

### **Closing prayer**

God give you grace to become the people He has called you to be, that you may live and work to his praise and glory, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**