

# **St Hilda's Church Warley Woods**



## **A Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration**

**November 1st 2020**

# Introduction

You are invited to follow this service at home some time on 1<sup>st</sup> November knowing that others around the parish are also. If there are more than one of you might like to appoint one person as the leader and then say the words in bold together. Or you might just like to read them to yourself. If you know the songs you can sing them, or read the lyrics to yourself.

You are invited to light a candle during the service to remember your loved one(s)

We pray for God's peace for all who have been bereaved.

## **Hymn: Light Shining Out of Darkness by William Cowper**

*The service begins with this hymn. Feel free to sing along, or simply listen.*

God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea  
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines  
Of never failing skill  
He treasures up His bright designs  
And works His sov'reign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;  
The clouds ye so much dread  
Are big with mercy and shall break  
In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,  
But trust Him for His grace;  
Behind a frowning providence  
He hides a smiling face.



His purposes will ripen fast,  
Unfolding every hour;  
The bud may have a bitter taste,  
But sweet will be the flow'r.

Blind unbelief is sure to err  
And scan His work in vain;  
God is His own interpreter,  
And He will make it plain.

## **THE WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

*Rev'd Jenni Crewes greets us:*

Leader: We meet in the name of Christ,  
who died and was raised by the glory of God.  
Grace, mercy and peace be with you all.

**All: And also with you**

*Lay Reader Richard Haynes introduces the service:*

Leader: We look not to the things that are seen  
but to the things that are unseen.  
For the things that are seen are transient  
but the things that are unseen are eternal.  
Tonight we come together  
to remember before God our loved ones,  
to give thanks for their lives  
and to comfort one another in our grief.  
As a father is tender towards his children:  
so is the Lord tender to those that fear him.

**All: For he remembers that we are but dust.**

Leader: Our days are like the grass:  
we flourish like a flower of the field.

**All: When the wind goes over it, it is gone:  
and its place will know it no more**

Leader: But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures  
for ever and ever toward those that fear him:

**All: and his righteousness upon their children's children.**

## **PRAYER**

Leader: Father in heaven,  
we thank you because you made us in your image  
and gave us gifts in body, mind and spirit.  
We thank you for our loved ones  
and all that they meant to each one of us.  
As we honour their memory, make us more aware that you  
are the one  
from whom all good things come, including the gift of eternal  
life  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

**All: Amen**

## **READING FROM THE BIBLE**

### **Hebrews 11:29-12:2**

*The reading describes how those who died for their faith will have their hopes realised. It is read to us by Mike Baynam*

<sup>29</sup> By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

<sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.

<sup>31</sup> By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

<sup>32</sup> And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets,  
<sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and

gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. <sup>35</sup> Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— <sup>38</sup> the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup> These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

**12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord:

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **The Address**

*by Jenni Crewes*

## **Hymn: The Lord's My Shepherd**

*This next hymn is based on the words of Psalm 23. Feel free to sing along, or simply listen.*

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
He makes me lie in pastures green.  
He leads me by the still, still waters,  
His goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in You alone,  
And I will trust in You alone,  
For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,  
And He anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on His pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff  
Are the comfort I need to know.

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: Let us declare our faith  
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ:

**All: Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he was buried;  
he was raised to life on the third day;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers,  
and to all the apostles:  
this we receive  
and this we believe.  
Amen**

## THE PRAYERS

*Richard Haynes leads us in prayer*

Leader: Lord, hear our prayer

**All: All let our cry come unto you.**

Leader: Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour Christ taught us:

**All: 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 this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE COMMEMORATION

Leader: All our laughter, all our sadness:

**All: Safe now in God's hands.**

Leader: All our anger, all our gladness:

**All: Safe now in God's hands.**

Leader: All our stories, all our memories:

**All: Safe now in God's hands.**

Leader: Those we remember, those we love:

**All: Safe now in God's hands.<sup>1</sup>**

Leader: Hear us, O merciful Father, as we remember in love,  
those who we have placed into your hands.

## THE NAMES OF THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE BEING COMMEMORATED ARE READ OUT

*Light your candle in memory of your loved one when their name is read.*

Leader: Jesus said: I am the resurrection and the life.  
Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,  
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

*After some time of quiet read the words of this song;*

**Hymn: Be not afraid, by Bob Dufford**

You shall cross the barren desert  
but you shall not die of thirst.  
You shall wander far in safety  
though you do not know the way.  
You shall speak your words in foreign lands  
and all will understand.  
You shall see the face of God and live.

*Be not afraid, I go before you always.*

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<sup>1</sup> All Around Hallowe'en, Ruth Burgess

*Come follow me and I will give you rest.*

If you pass through raging waters  
in the sea, you shall not drown.  
If you walk amid the burning flames,  
you shall not be harmed.  
If you stand before the power of hell  
and death is at your side,  
know that I am with you through it all.  
*Be not afraid, I go before you always.*  
*Come follow me and I will give you rest.*

Blessed are the poor,  
for the Kingdom shall be theirs.  
Blest are you that weep and mourn,  
for one day you shall laugh.  
And if wicked tongues insult and hate you  
all because of me,  
blessed, blessed are you!  
*Be not afraid, I go before you always.*  
*Come follow me and I will give you rest.*

## **THE PEACE**

Leader: Jesus said: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.  
Not as the world gives do I give to you.  
Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

**All:** The peace of the risen Christ be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Leader: Now unto him who is able to keep us from falling,  
and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory  
with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour,

be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.

**All: Amen**

## **THE BLESSING**

*Jenni pronounces the blessing*

God the Father,  
bring us to the place,  
which your Son has prepared  
for all who love him.

**All: Amen**

God the Son,  
give us the will to live for you  
each day of our lives.

**All: Amen**

God the Holy Spirit,  
give us the assurance  
that our home is in heaven  
with those whom we have loved  
but see no longer.

**All: Amen**

The blessing of the eternal God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
be with you and those you have loved this night  
and for ever more.

**All: Amen**

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## **SERVICES**

*You are welcome at any of our church services. We are a church community of ordinary people of all ages who suffer the same losses and share the same joys as all people. There are services every Sunday offered at present with material to use in home (either by email or post) and a service at 10:30am in church. All who attend church need to sign-in for track and trace, wear a mask and sanitise their hands. If you would like to receive the weekly order of service please email [administrator@sainthildawarleywoods.co.uk](mailto:administrator@sainthildawarleywoods.co.uk)*

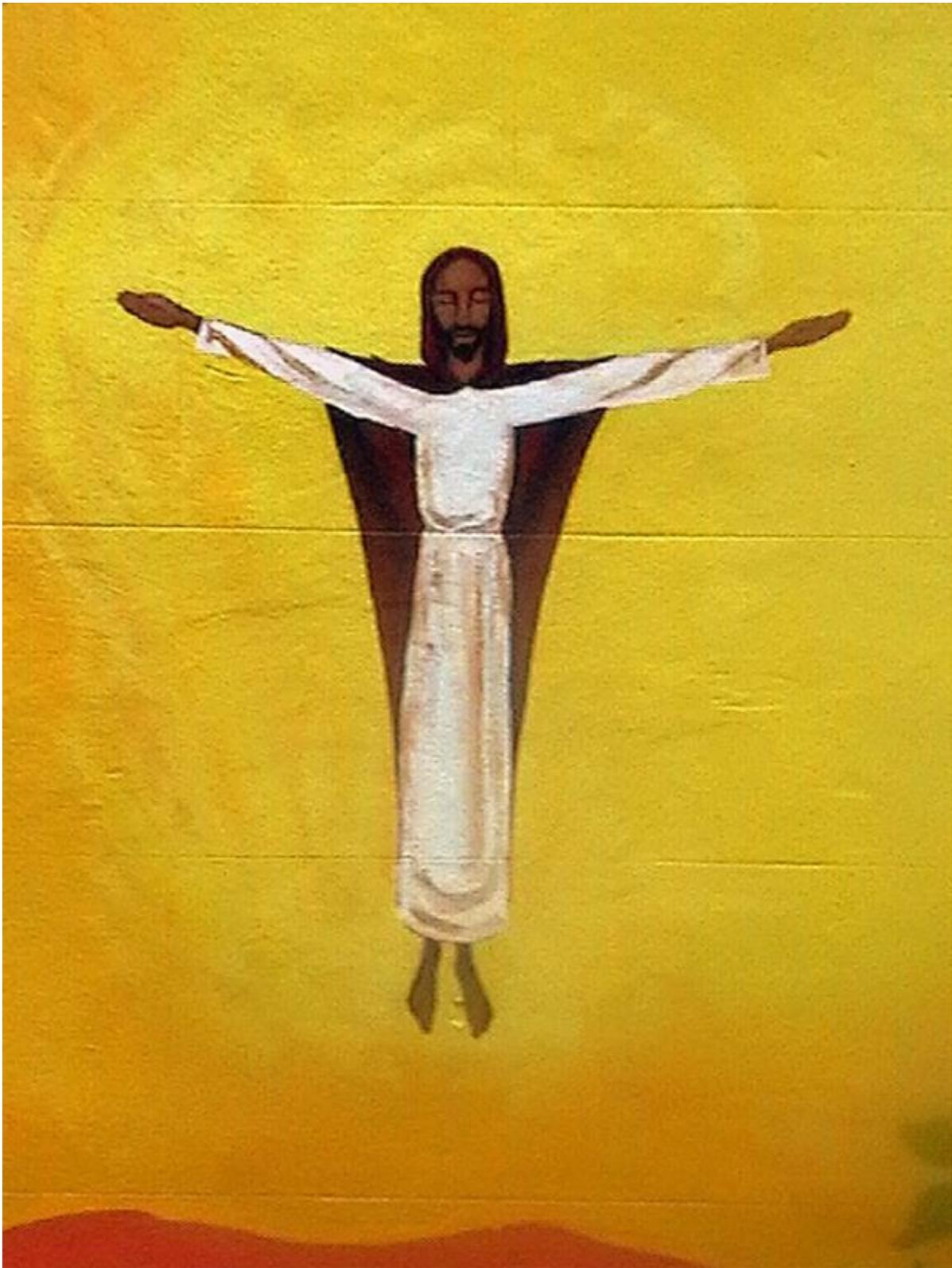
The church is also open for private prayer on Wednesday from 2-3pm.

*For more information, see our website at:  
[www.sainthildawarleywoods.co.uk](http://www.sainthildawarleywoods.co.uk)*

## **TELEPHONE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT**

*Church of England Birmingham has set up a dedicated phone-line offering 1-2-1 pastoral support and prayer for bereaved people. This faith based/CofE Birmingham ministry is specially for anyone whose loved one has died recently in hospital, in residential care or at home - a family member, friend, colleague or neighbour, or someone who has been cared for through work. We can also offer this spiritual pastoral support to those who are anxious about relatives who are gravely ill, especially if there is no option of visiting them in person.*

*To access this ministry, please dial: 0121 426 0405 You will be asked to leave us a message with your name and telephone number.*



*'Ascension', mural on a graffiti wall in Bristol*

**Acknowledgements**

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