

*The Benefice of St Mary the Virgin,  
Higham Ferrers with St John the Baptist,  
Chelveston-cum-Caldecott*



**MEETING POINT**  
**@ Easter**

**Online Worship**



***Welcome to our new style Online Worship –***  
**Meeting Point**

*As Sunday Services resume in our churches, our Online Worship continues but takes on a new format – each week we will be joined together in our worship at home and in church through the seasons of the Church Year and the themes of the Gospel.*

*Meeting Point @ Easter helps us come to know the risen Lord Jesus more fully as we follow the stories of his appearing to his friends after the resurrection, and as we look once again at how he describes himself and God. Today we hear how Jesus gives a new commandment ‘Love one another as I have loved you.’*

Thanks to all who have made today’s service possible including members of the Ministry Team and their families,  
and especially

Keith Lacy, a retired Family Court judge, who shares his experience of how the law can help in settling disputes and encouraging harmonious settlements.

# The Welcome

*Michelle & Paul introduce today's service.*



## **Hymn**

**Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above;  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation:  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee;  
Changed from glory into glory  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: BLAENWERN William Rowlands (1860-1937)



### ***Call to Worship & Confession: Michelle & Chris***

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,  
**we come to worship you.**

We come to you in sorrow for our sins,  
**and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.**

We have lived by our own strength,  
**and not by the power of your resurrection.**

In your mercy, forgive us.  
**Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,  
**as faithless and not believing.**

In your mercy, forgive us.  
**Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived for this world alone,  
**and doubted our home in heaven.**

In your mercy, forgive us.  
**Lord, hear us and help us.**

***We are Forgiven – Michelle***

May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our  
Lord. **Amen.**



***Collect: Brenda***

Risen Christ,  
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:  
help your Church to obey your command  
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,  
to the glory of God the Father.

**Amen**

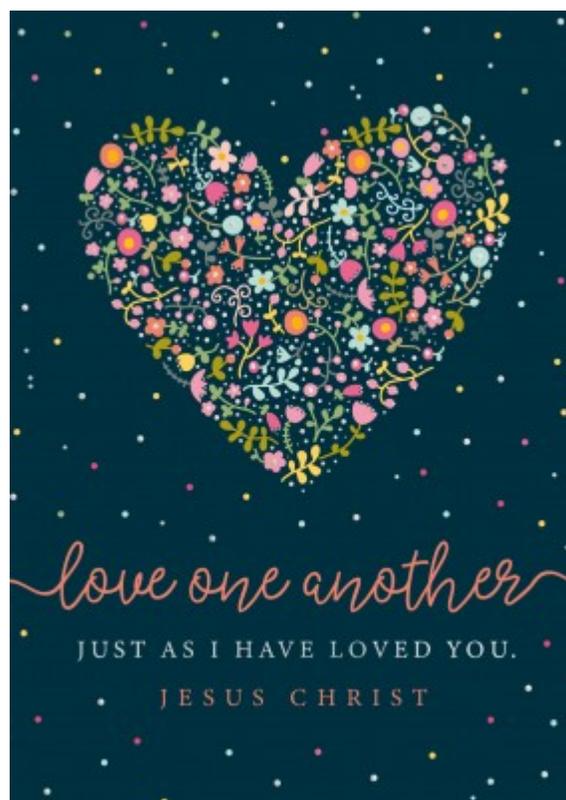


**Reading** – Linda

John 15: 9-17

Jesus said, ‘As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.’



## ***Hymn***

**Come down, O Love divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.**

**O let it freely burn,  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let thy glorious light  
shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.**

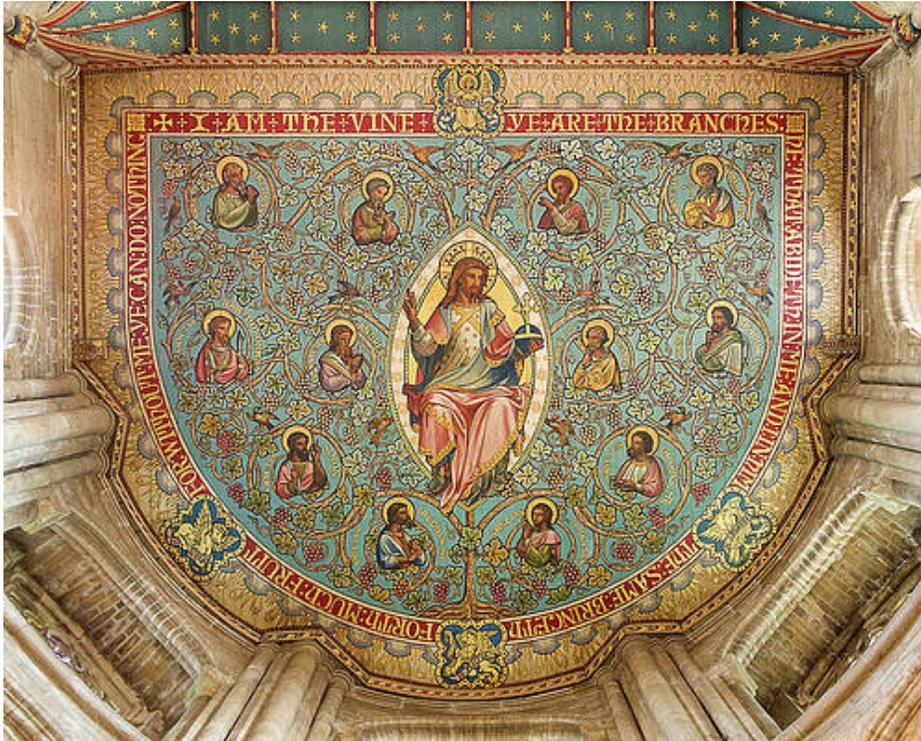
**Let holy charity  
mine outward vesture be,  
and lowliness become mine inner clothing:  
true lowliness of heart,  
which takes the humbler part,  
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with  
loathing.**

**And so the yearning strong,  
with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace,  
till he become the place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.**

*Words: Bianco da Siena (d.1434) Discendi, amor santo  
Translated Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890)*

Music: *DOWN AMPNEY* Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

## **Reflection** – Michelle



*Ceiling of the Apse Chapel, Peterborough Cathedral*

## **Anthem** – *A New Commandment*

*sung by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields*

*A new commandment I give unto you  
that you love one another  
as I have loved you,  
that you love one another  
as I have loved you.*

*By this shall all know that you are my disciples  
If you have love one for another.*

*Music: Richard Shepherd (b.1949) based on John 13:34*

## ***The Commandment to love....***

*Keith Lacy, a retired Family Court Judge talks about love, respect and the law – how can the law help us live together well when relationships break down?*



## ***Prayers - Michelle***

*The response for the prayers is:*

Lord, as you love us,  
**may we live in love with one another.**



Greater love has  
no one than this:  
to lay down one's life  
for one's friends.

**John 15:13**

*Concluding with*

## ***The Lord's Prayer***



**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.**

## ***Peace - Paul***

Peace be in your dealings.  
Peace be in your thinking.  
Peace in all your living and in your loving.

The peace of the risen Lord be always with you;  
**and also with you.**



## ***Hymn***

**There's a wideness in God's mercy  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in his justice  
which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heaven;  
there is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgement given.**

**For the love of God is broader  
than the measure of our mind,  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.  
But we make his love too narrow  
by false limits of our own;  
and we magnify his strictness  
with a zeal he would not own.**

**There is plentiful redemption  
through the blood that has been shed;  
there is joy for all the members  
in the sorrows of the Head.  
There is grace enough for thousands**

**of new worlds as great as this;  
there is room for fresh creations  
in that upper home of bliss.**

**If our love were but more simple,  
we should take him at his word;  
and our lives would be all gladness  
in the joy of Christ our Lord.**

*Words: Frederick William Faber (1814-1863)*

*Music: COVERDALE Maurice Bevan (1921-2006)*



### ***Final Prayer - Brenda***

God our Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:  
may we thirst for you,  
the spring of life and source of goodness,  
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## ***Blessing - Paul***

Love the Lord your God,  
with all your heart,  
and love one another as God has loved us;  
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you  
now and always.

**Amen.**



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