

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



# MEETING POINT

Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity  
26<sup>th</sup> September 2021

‘Salt of the earth’

# Online Worship



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

*As Sunday Services now take place in our churches,  
our Online Worship continues in ‘Meeting Point’ –  
we are joined together as one worshipping family through our  
services at home and in church through the seasons of the  
Church Year and the themes of the Gospel.*

*Sunday Meeting Point helps us deepen our faith as we explore  
readings from scripture and experiences from our day to day lives.*

*Meeting Point today explores the meaning of Jesus’s saying that we  
should be ‘the salt of the earth.’ Salt has been, and still is, one of  
those resources that the world couldn’t do without.*

Thanks to all who have made  
today’s service possible  
including members of the Ministry Team and their families, and  
Barrie and Joy Hall from Podington Church.

# The Welcome

*Michelle introduces today's service.*



## *Hymn*

**Christ triumphant, ever reigning,  
Saviour, Master, King!  
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,  
hear us as we sing:  
*Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name.***

**Word incarnate, truth revealing,  
Son of Man on earth!  
power and majesty concealing  
by your humble birth:**

**Suffering servant, scorned, ill - treated,  
victim crucified!  
death is through the cross defeated,  
sinners justified:**

**Priestly king, enthroned for ever  
high in heaven above!  
sin and death and hell shall never  
stifle hymns of love:**

**So, our hearts and voices raising  
through the ages long,  
ceaselessly upon you gazing,  
this shall be our song:**

*Words: Michael Saward (1932-2015)*

*Music: GUITING POWER John Barnard (b.1948)*

**Greeting** *Michelle & Chris*

Welcome in the name of Christ  
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you.  
**And also with you.**



**Opening Acclamation**

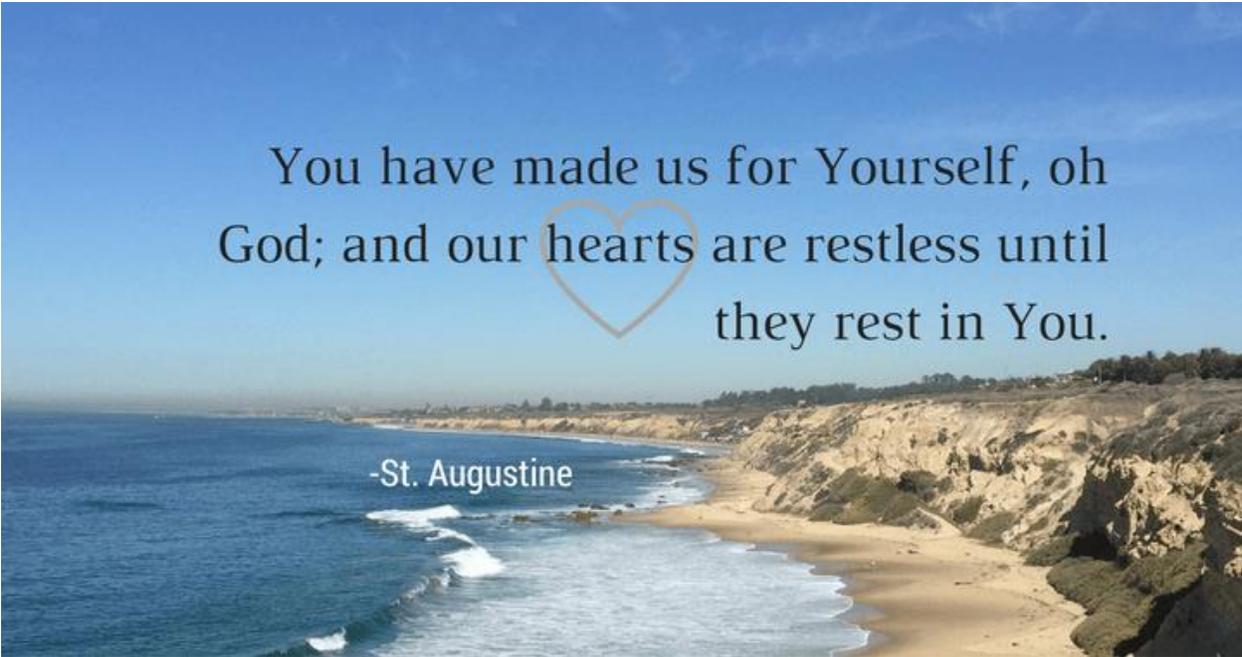
God in Christ has revealed his glory.  
**Come let us worship.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting  
**the Lord's name is greatly to be praised.**

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.  
**O praise the name of the Lord!**

## ***Collect for The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity***

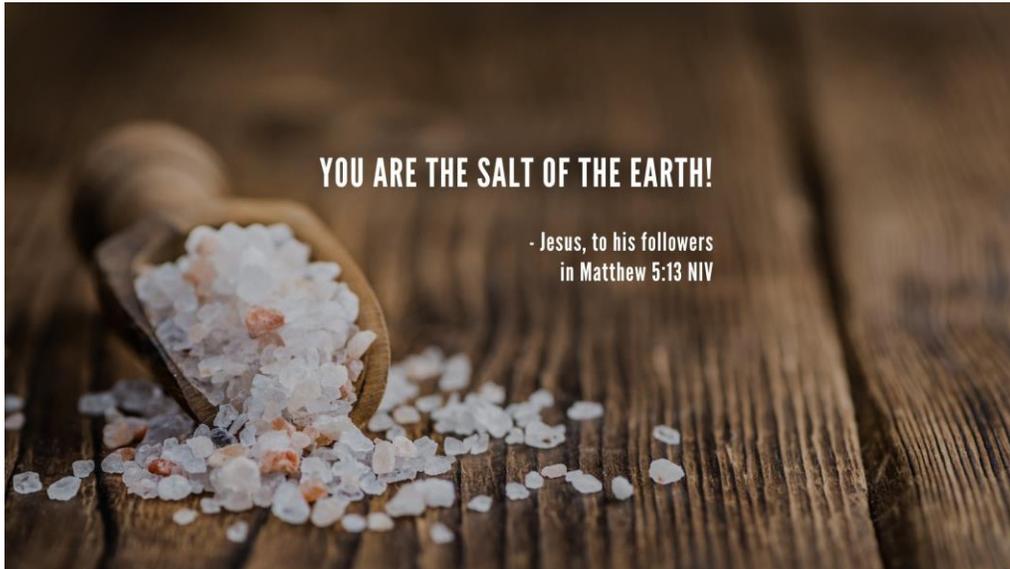
Almighty God, you have made us for yourself,  
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:  
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,  
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city  
where we shall see you face to face;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**



You have made us for Yourself, oh  
God; and our hearts are restless until  
they rest in You.

-St. Augustine

## ***Bible Readings - Linda***



Jesus said; “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.  
*Matthew 5:13*



Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it?  
Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.  
*Mark 9:38*



Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

*Colossians 4:6*

## ***Hymn***

**Seek ye first the Kingdom of God,  
and his righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you;  
Allelu, alleluia:**

**Ask, and it shall be given unto you;  
seek and ye shall find;  
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you;  
Allelu, alleluia:**

**We shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word  
that proceeds from the mouth of God;  
Allelu, alleluia:**

*Words & Music: Karen Lafferty (b. 1948)*

*Arranged: Roland T. Fudge (b.1947)*

## ***Salty Facts....***



*Paul meets Barrie and Joy Hall from Podington Church*

## ***Meditation***

## ***Hymn***

**God is here! As we his people  
meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us,  
all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of his Spirit  
into open minds and hearts.**

**Here are symbols to remind us  
of our lifelong need of grace;  
here are table, font and pulpit;  
here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching,  
here in silence, as in speech,  
here, in newness and renewal,  
God the Spirit comes to each.**



**Here our children find a welcome  
in the Shepherd's flock and fold,  
here, as bread and wine are taken,  
Christ sustains us as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant  
seek in worship to explore  
what it means in daily living  
to believe and to adore.**

**Lord of all, of Church and Kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt,  
keep us faithful to the gospel,  
help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive:  
we, who cannot live without you,  
we adore you! We believe!**

*Words: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)*

## ***Prayers***

*We pray for our world, our church and those in need, those who mourn, and those who have died. We pray too for ourselves, that we may be like salt in the world.*

## ***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.**

## ***The Peace – Michelle and Chris***

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace.  
If we live in the Spirit, let us walk in the Spirit.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another  
a sign of peace.



## ***Hymn***

**'Lift up your hearts!' We lift them, Lord, to thee;  
here at thy feet none other may we see:  
'lift up your hearts!' E'en so, with one accord,  
we lift them up, we lift them to the Lord.**

**Above the level of the former years,  
the mire of sin, the slough of guilty fears,  
the mist of doubt, the blight of love's decay,  
O Lord of light, lift all our hearts to-day.**

**Above the swamps of subterfuge and shame,  
the deeds, the thoughts, that honour  
may not name,  
the halting tongue that dares not tell the whole,  
O Lord of truth, lift every Christian soul.**

**Lift every gift that thou thyself hast given:  
low lies the best till lifted up to heaven;  
low lie the bounding heart, the teeming brain,  
till, sent from God, they mount to God again.**

**Then, as the trumpet-call in after years,  
'Lift up your hearts!' rings pealing in our ears,  
still shall those hearts respond with full accord,  
'We lift them up, we lift them to the Lord!'**

*words: Henry Montagu Butler (1833-1918)*

*music: WOODLANDS Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)*

### ***Final Prayer – Michelle***

Lord, we pray that your grace  
may always go before us and follow us,  
and make us continually to be given  
to all good works;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**



## **Blessing** – Michelle

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make his face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you.

May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,  
and give you peace.

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

come down upon you this day, and remain with you always.

**Amen**



*Don't forget to check out the weekly Newsheet via the website and keep up to date with all that's happening – our Harvest Festivals are taking place this Sunday at St John's at 4pm, and at St Mary's next Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 10.30am.*

*Find more information on the website by visiting  
[www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk](http://www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk)  
and go the 'Keeping in Touch' tab  
then select 'Newsletters' from the drop-down menu.*



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