

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



MEETING POINT

3rd Sunday before Advent
7th November 2021

'COP and Creation'
Online Worship



Welcome to our Online Worship –

Meeting Point

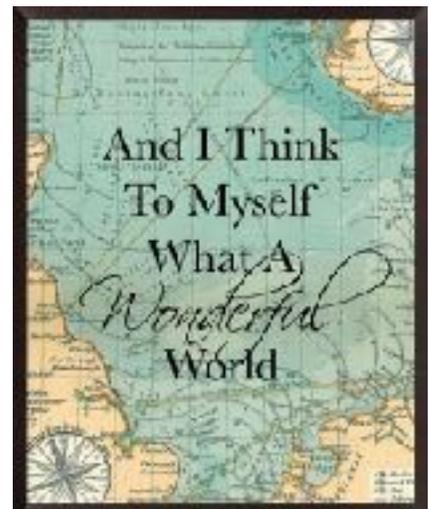
*As Sunday Services now take place in our churches,
our Online Worship continues in ‘Meeting Point’ –
we are joined together as one worshipping family through
our services at home and in church through the seasons
of the*

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 celebrates God our creator in music,
scripture and comment*

Thanks to all who have made today’s
service possible
including members of the Ministry Team
and families with Karen Holmes, Keith
Green and Richard Oberman.



The Welcome

Michelle introduces today's service.

Hymn

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:**

Refrain

***Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!***

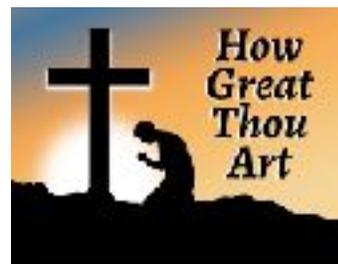
**And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.**

Refrain

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, My God, how great thou art!**

Refrain

Stuart K Hine (1899 – 1989)



Greeting Michelle & Chris

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



Opening Acclamation

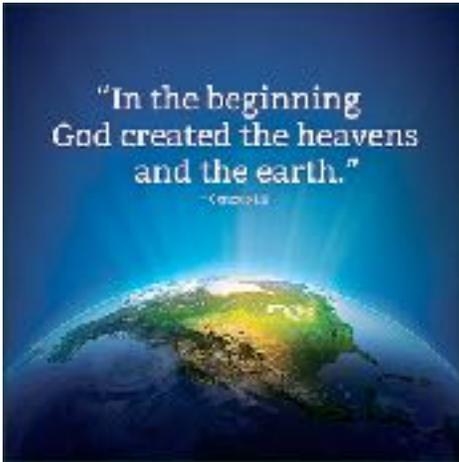
Blessed are you, Lord God,
King of the Universe.
Your word inspired the birth of creation

Your wisdom creates both night and day
You determine the cycles of time.

You arrange the succession of seasons
And establish the stars in their heavenly courses.
The Lord of hosts is your name

Living and eternal God, rule over us always.
Blessed be the Lord,
whose word brings the sun to rise each dawn

Collect



Holy God, earth and air and water are your creation,
and every living thing belongs to you:
have mercy on us as climate change
confronts us.

Give us the will and the courage to simplify
the way we live,
to reduce the energy we use,
to share the resources you provide,
and to bear the cost of change.
Send us your Spirit with wisdom

and vision for the future to which you call us
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Bible reading *Genesis 1 vv 26 - 31*

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good

Hymn



**For the beauty of the earth
For the beauty of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies**

***'Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise***

**For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r
Sun and Moon and stars of light;**

***'Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise***

**For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild.**

***'Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise***

**For each perfect gift of Thine
To our race so freely given
Graces human and divine
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n**

***'Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise***

F.S.Pierpoint (1835 - 1917)

Bible reading *Psalms 65 vv 6 - 13*

God our Saviour, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas,

who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength,

who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations.

The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy.

You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly.

The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain,
for so you have ordained it.

You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.

The grasslands of the wilderness overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness.

The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain;

they shout for joy and sing.

Anthem

The heavens are telling the glory of God, The wonder of his work displays the firmament; In all the lands resounds the word, never unperceived, ever understood. The heavens are telling the glory of God, The wonder of his work displays the firmament.

(Haydn - Excerpt)

Bible reading *Amos*

“I gave you empty stomachs in every city and lack of bread in every town, yet you have not returned to me,” declares the Lord.

“I also withheld rain from you when the harvest was still three months away.

I sent rain on one town, but withheld it from another.

One field had rain; another had none and dried up.

People staggered from town to town for water but did not get enough to drink, yet you have not returned to me,” declares the Lord.

“Many times I struck your gardens and vineyards, destroying them with blight and mildew.

Locusts devoured your fig and olive trees, yet you have not returned to me,” declares the Lord.

Amos 4 : 6 - 9

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when the reaper will be overtaken by the ploughman

and the planter by the one treading grapes.

New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills, and I will bring my people Israel back from exile.

“They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine;

they will make gardens and eat their fruit.

I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them,” Says the Lord your God.

Amos 9: 13 - 15

Hymn

Beauty for brokenness

Hope for despair

Lord, in your suffering

This is our prayer

Bread for the children

Justice, joy, peace

Sunrise to sunset

Your kingdom increase!

Refrain

God of the poor

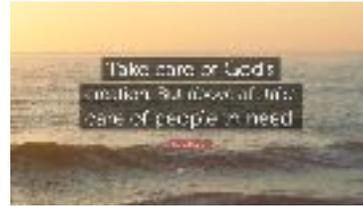
Friend of the weak

Give us compassion we pray

Melt our cold hearts

***Let tears fall like rain
Come, change our love
From a spark to a flame***

**Refuge from cruel wars
Havens from fear
Cities for sanctuary
Freedoms to share
Peace to the killing-fields
Scorched earth to green
Christ for the bitterness
His cross for the pain**



Refrain

**Lighten our darkness
Breathe on this flame
Until your justice
Burns brightly again
Until the nations
Learn of your ways
Seek your salvation
And bring you their praise**

Refrain

Graham Kendrick (B 1950)

Bible reading - *Romans Chap 8.*

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to

frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."¹

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hymn

**Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!**

**The heavens are not too high,
his praise may thither fly,
the earth is not too low,
his praises there may grow.**

**Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and
King!**

**Let all the world in every corner sing:
My God and King!**

**The church with psalms must shout,
no door can keep them out;
but, above all, the heart
must bear the longest part.**

**Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!**

Prayers – Based on the Lord's Prayer

God in creation

Let us pray for our own needs and for the needs of others,
following the pattern which Jesus gave
when he taught us to pray to God our Father.

Through our love of the countryside,
through our care for commuters and farmers,
through our care for animals and wildlife,
through our respect for property and tools:

Father, hallowed be your name.

On our farms and in our homes,
in our colleges and schools,
where machinery is made,
and where policy is planned:

Father, your kingdom come.

By our seeking your guidance,
by our keeping your commandments,
by our living true to our consciences:

Father, your will be done.

For the millions who live in poverty and hunger,
for our own needs, and the requirements of our neighbours,
by cooperation, sympathy and generosity:

give us today our daily bread.

Because we have broken your commandments,
doing what we ought not to do and failing as
good stewards of your creation;

forgive us our sins.

If any have injured us by injustice, double dealing or exploitation:
we forgive those who sin against us.

When prosperity lulls us to false security,
or hard times prompt us to despair,
When success makes us boastful,
or failure makes us bitter:

**lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

In the assurance of faith,
in the confidence of hope,
in the will to serve,
help us to love Christ as Lord,
and our neighbour as ourselves.

**for the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Peace – Michelle and Chris

You shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another
a sign of peace.



Hymn

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be**

Refrain

Great is Thy faithfulness

***Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning, new mercies I see
All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love**

Refrain

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow-
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

Refrain

(Thomas O. Chisholm 1923)



Final Prayer – Paul

Creator God,
you give seed for us to sow,
and bread for us to eat;
make us thankful for what we have received
and generous in supplying the needs of others
so all the world may give you thanks and glory,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Blessing – Michelle

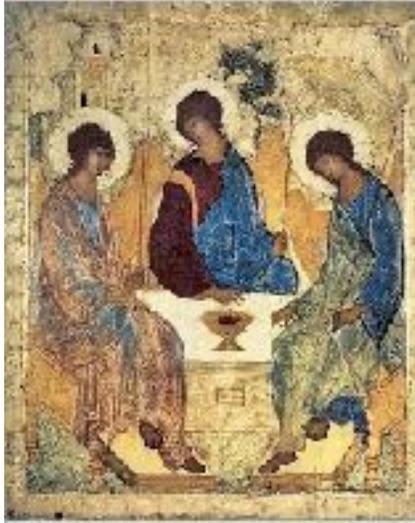
May God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessing upon all things created, and upon you his
children,
that you may use his gifts to his glory and the welfare of all
peoples;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the
Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**



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