

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



MEETING POINT

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
12th September 2021

‘A time for decisions’

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.*

Today we think about times when we must decide what is right to do, or who to follow. This September, as life begins again, we must decide how to live with the ongoing challenge of Covid. For government and local councils there are hard decisions to make!

This Sunday St Mary's hosts our annual Civic Service where we are joined by members of Higham Ferrers Town Council.

Meeting Point this week celebrates the link between our churches and local government and we pray God's blessing on all who hold positions of leadership in the community and for wisdom in the many decisions they must make.

Our Mayor Tina Reavey shares with us in Meeting Point today.

The Welcome

Michelle & Paul introduce today's service.



Hymn

**Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord for the years, we bring our thanks today.**

**Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.**

**Lord, for our world where we disown and
doubt you,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.**

**Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us-
self on the cross, and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.**

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)

Music: Michael Baughen (b.1930)

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 Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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.

Gospel Reading –

read by Chris Newell

Mark 8: 27-37

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"

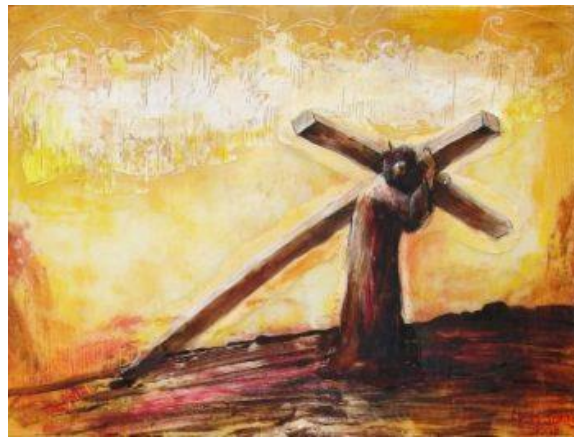
And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."



He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?"



Hymn

**The kingdom of God is justice and joy,
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.**

**The kingdom of God is mercy and grace,
the captives are freed, the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened instead of despair.**

**The kingdom of God is challenge and choice,
believe the good news, repent and rejoice.
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.**

**God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,
and all things cry glory to God all in all.**

Words: Bryn Rees (1911-1983) ©Alexander Scott

Music: PADERBORN German folk melody arranged by Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947)



Can you be a Vicar and Mayor?

Fr Roger Knight speaks of his experience

Anthem

*Alleluia! Alleluia!
Raise the Gospel over the Earth!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Peace and justice bringing to birth!*

*Blessed, those whose hearts are gentle,
Blessed, those whose spirits are strong.
Blessed, those who choose to bring forth right where there is wrong!*

*Tremble, you who thirst for power,
Tremble, you who live for acclaim!
Tremble, when you find no comfort in your wealth and fame!*

*Glory, like the stars in Heaven,
Glory, like the sun in the sky.
Glory, shines upon all people equal in God's eyes!*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!
Raise the Gospel over the Earth!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Peace and justice and bringing to birth!
Alleluia, Alleluia!*



Prayers – led by Paul

We pray for our world, our church, our family and friends and for ourselves, continuing to remember especially the people of Afghanistan and this week, remembering the terrorist attacks of 9/11 on the 20th anniversary, all those who died and all those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

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.**

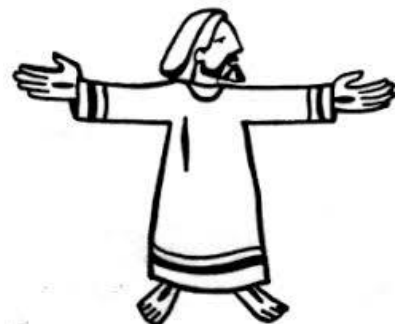


The Peace – Michelle and Chris

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

**Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us,
you are one with us, Mary's Son;
cleansing our souls from all their sin,
pouring your love and goodness in;
Jesus, our love for you we sing,
Living Lord.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, now and every day,
teach us how to pray, Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
this in remembrance, Lord of you:
into our lives your power breaks through,
Living Lord.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us,
born as one of us, Mary's Son.
Led out to die on Calvary,
risen from death to set us free,
living Lord Jesus, help us see,
you are Lord.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, I would come to you,
live my life for you, Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
your many gifts will make me new,
into my life your power breaks through,
Living Lord.**

*Words & Melody: Patrick Appleford (b.1925)
Arranged by John Birch (1929-2012)*

Final Prayer – Michelle

Keep, O Lord, your Church,
with your perpetual mercy;
and, because without you
our human frailty cannot but fall,
keep us ever by your help
from all things hurtful,
and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation;
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



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