

St Raphael's

All Age Service for June 2020

"A Church for Everybody"



In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Amen

The Lord be with you
And also with you

This is the day that the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**God of the young and old,
God of the rich and poor,
God of the sad and the joyful,
God of our past, present and future,
We come to worship you.**

In the next few weeks some of us will be going back into Church to worship together – and some of us will be staying at home for now. For those who do go back to the Church building, you might be worshipping in a Church that is not your usual one. Even if it is the same building, some changes may have been made. Goodness me – haven't we all got to be adaptable at the moment! What a challenge it is to us all!

But there is one thing that we must remember, whether we are staying at home for the foreseeable future, or beginning to make our way back into a world where changes have been put into place. And that is that God is with us! Our first hymn reminds us that "The Church is wherever God's people are praising". In other words – YOU are the Church – every single one of you. Isn't that wonderful news?

**The Church is wherever God's people are praising,
knowing they're wanted and loved by their Lord.
The Church is wherever Christ's followers are trying
to live and to share out the good news of God.**

**The Church is wherever God's people are loving,
where all are forgiven and start once again,
where all are accepted, whatever their background,
whatever their past and whatever their pain.**

**The Church is wherever God's people are seeking
to reach out and touch folk wherever they are --
conveying the Gospel, its joy and its comfort,
to challenge, refresh, and excite and inspire.**

**The Church is wherever God's people are praising,
knowing we're wanted and loved by our Lord.
The Church is where we as Christ's followers are trying
to live and to share out the good news of God.**

Confession

Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings of the world. Let us confess our share in what is wrong, and our failure to seek and establish that sense of peace and welcome which God wills for his children to share.

'I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink.'

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

'I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me.'

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

'I was sick and did not visit me, in prison, and you did not come to me.'

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the almighty God have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in life eternal.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, **Amen**

The Gloria

Refrain: *Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

1. Lord God heavenly King, peace you bring to us, we worship you, we give you thanks, we sing our song of praise.

2. Jesus, saviour of all, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away our sins, O Lord, have mercy on us all.

3. At the Father's right hand, Lord, receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One and you alone are Lord.

4. Glory Father and Son, glory Holy Spirit! To you we raise our hands up high! We glorify your name

The Collect

God our Saviour,
Look on this wounded world in pity and in power;
Hold fast to your promises of peace
Won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, **Amen**

Usually at this point in our service we hear one or two readings – sometimes in an all age service we like to listen differently. Today's reading reminds us of several different parts of the gospel which all have the same theme –and there is a response in this reading so you will have to listen carefully.

When I say: "And all the people said

You respond "**Oh no – not her/ him**"

... One day as Jesus was travelling he met a Roman Centurion whose servant was ill. He begged Jesus to make him better. Nobody liked the Romans because they were occupying the country and telling everyone what to do. And all the people said...

But Jesus said "Yes – even him" and spoke to the Centurion, and made his servant well.

... One day as Jesus was travelling he met a tax collector. He was a little man who had climbed into a tree to see better. He wasn't a good man. He took a bit more money from people than he should and kept it for himself. And all the people said...

But Jesus said "Yes – even him" and talked to him and listened to him and went round to his house for tea.

...One day as Jesus was travelling he met an old woman who had been ill many years. She touched Jesus' cloak and asked to be healed. Everyone thought she was unclean and disgusting. And all the people said...

But Jesus said, "Yes – even her" and healed her just like she asked.

All through his work, people came up to Jesus again and again and again, and the people often said “Oh no – not them”

But Jesus always said, “Yes – even her, and even him, because God welcomes everyone.”

You might like to think about:

What did the Roman Centurion, the tax collector and the old woman have in common?

What do these different stories tell us about Jesus?

What do you think they might tell us about what Churches ought to be like?

Can you draw a picture or make a model, or may be write a poem about what a really good Church community might look like?

The Peace

From far and wide God calls us together,
Heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace
The peace of the Lord be always with you
And always with you

**Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christlight for you
in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.**

**Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

John's going to lead us in our prayers now. Please remember in your prayers this week: Val, Jim and Sheila, Rosemary, Fiona and Adrienne.

Our final hymn reminds us that wherever we are, we are on a journey to a common end – and that the end of all our searching, all our striving, all our hopes, is God himself. It reminds us that God draws together every corner of this earth in his love, and he leads us on home.

**Hills of the north, rejoice;
river and mountain spring,
hark to the advent voice;
valley and lowland, sing;
though absent long, your Lord is nigh;
he judgment brings and victory.**

**Isles of the southern seas,
deep in your coral caves
pent be each warring breeze,
lulled be your restless waves:
he comes to reign with boundless sway,
and makes your wastes his great highway.**

**Lands of the East, awake,
soon shall your sons be free;
the sleep of ages break,
and rise to liberty.
On your far hills, long cold and gray,
has dawned the everlasting day.**

**Shores of the utmost West,
ye that have waited long,
unvisited, unblessed,
break forth to swelling song;
high raise the note, that Jesus died,
yet lives and reigns, the Crucified.**

**Shout, while ye journey home;
songs be in every mouth;
lo, from the North we come,
from East, and West, and South.
city of God, the bond are free,
we come to live and reign in thee!**

The peace of God which passes all understanding,
Keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God
And of his Son our Lord Jesus Christ.
And the blessing of God almighty,
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Be with you and remain with you always
Amen

