



Sunday 18th July 2021

7th Sunday after Trinity – Morning Worship

Welcome

The Greeting

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.

All **Let us recognise his presence with us.**

As God's people we have gathered:

All **let us worship him together.**

Hymn *73 Christ is made the sure foundation*

Christ is made the sure
foundation,
Christ the head and corner-stone
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the Church in one;
holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

To this temple where we call thee
Come O Lord of hosts today.
With thy wonted loving kindness
Hear thy people as they pray
And thy fullest benediction
Shed within its walls alway

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain,
what they gain from thee forever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.

Laud and honour to the Father,
Laud and honour to the Son,
Laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One:
one in might and one in glory
while eternal ages run.

Words by John Mason Neale
Music by Henry Purcell

Opening activity *'Generation game', video*

Confession

Leader God shows his love for us in that,
while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in
penitence and faith.

Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Against you, you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Absolution *(we are reminded that God forgives all who repent)*

Leader Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

Collect *(Prayer for the day)*

Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed, make it grow to your
glory and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Everyday Faith Caroline Harvey ~ St Peter's

Song *I'm gonna jump up and down*

I'm gonna jump up and down
Gonna spin right around
I'm gonna praise Your name forever
I'm gonna shout out loud
Gonna deafen the crowd
I'm gonna send my praise to
heaven

I will run this race and I will never
stop
I'll follow Jesus till the day I drop
I can do all thing through Christ
who strengthens me
When you've got such a lot
When you've got not a lot
WHAT? BE HAPPY!!!

Bible readings

Haggai 2:1-9 – Eliot Johnson, St Peter's

2On the twenty-first day of the seventh month, the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai: ²"Speak to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people. Ask them, ³'Who of you is left who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Does it not seem to you like nothing? ⁴But now be strong, O Zerubbabel,' declares the Lord. 'Be strong, O Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the Lord, 'and work. For I am with you,' declares the Lord Almighty. ⁵'This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.'

⁶"This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. ⁷I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the Lord Almighty. ⁸'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the Lord Almighty. ⁹'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the Lord Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the Lord Almighty."

John 2:13-22 – Video

¹³When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!"

¹⁷His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

¹⁸Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"

¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

²⁰The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹But the temple he had spoken of was

his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

Sermon – Rachel Johnson, LLM

I will build my church

As we heard from Jonathan last week, after 70 years the exiles were home – some of them, anyway, others decided to stay in Babylon. But for those who chose to return it was a dream come true – back to the promised land, back where they belonged. Dreams can turn sour though – Israel wasn't quite what it was in the golden age of David and Solomon. Homes needed rebuilding, fields needed ploughing, grapes needed harvesting. After all, the people needed to live, didn't they? But things didn't go well, drought fell on the land and Haggai told them why: *This is what the Lord Almighty says. My house, my temple, remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house.*

The people listened and they responded. They began work on the temple. They put their best efforts into it, but the result was – well – not quite what they'd dreamt of. I'm sure you've had similar experiences; glossy holiday brochures, say, that promise a sea view but deliver a room looking out onto a brick wall. Or birthday cakes – and I have form here – I've attempted cats, castles, a snare drum, a giant blueberry muffin – and the results are usually edible, but they rarely match up to the picture in my head. So the new temple did the job, it gave them a place of worship, but if you'd grown up with stories about the magnificence of Solomon's Temple then the structure they managed to build must have looked like nothing at all. Can you imagine how downcast must they have felt? Into this despondent atmosphere came another message from Haggai.

Be strong, declares the Lord, be strong, all you people of the land, be strong and work, for I am with you. It's an echo of the Lord's message to Joshua – *be strong and courageous...and I myself will be with you.*

Then he says '*This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt*' – when of course the Lord didn't have any kind of temple, only a tabernacle. But here, I think, is the heart of this message of encouragement – the covenant. God promised that he would be their God and make them a light to all nations. And God keeps his promises.

See how the message carries on: *I will shake all nations. I will fill this house with glory. The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house declares the Lord Almighty.*

It's an astonishing promise, isn't it? Almost unbelievable. But Haggai showed them that they could trust the promise because it was the Lord Almighty who had made it and he would fulfil it. He didn't need a magnificent temple but he did require that the Israelites keep their side of the covenant – to put God first. If they did that, the Lord would do the rest. And over the centuries the temple was improved and renovated,

ending with the 46 year long renovation carried out by Herod. Finally, the Israelites had a temple to be proud of.

But what does this have to do with us? This is a promise to the Israelites at a specific time in their history. Can we just pick it up and claim it for ourselves as we look to rebuild the church post-pandemic? Let's think about that in the light of our gospel reading.

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the Temple courts he drove out the sheep and cattle and overturned the tables of the money changers.

The Israelites might have been proud of the newly refurbished temple but Jesus wasn't. It had become a place of commerce, a place of collusion with the Romans, a place of exclusion – if you were poor or gentile or female. But the key point of this story is what Jesus says next:

Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.

Jesus was claiming he was the new temple, that he was God's dwelling place, that God's glory – the tangible, visible presence of God – was fully revealed in him.

The Romans destroyed the second temple in AD70. But they couldn't destroy Jesus. Jesus is the temple that will endure to the very end of the age, fulfilling God's covenant promises. And since Jesus ascended to heaven he's represented on earth by the Church. Paul writes to the Corinthian church, '*you yourselves are God's temple and God's Spirit dwells in your midst (1 Co 3:16)*'. And Jesus promised to Peter, '*the gates of Hades will not overcome it*' (Matt 16:18). That's how God's promise to Israel also applies to us: The glory of God revealed in Jesus and embodied by the Church is greater than any temple could ever be, and that glory will never be overcome.

Perhaps you look back at days gone by, when ladies wore hats to church and the pews were full and there were four Sunday School classes. And you might feel, like the Israelites, this present church looks like nothing. We rattle around in draughty buildings with leaky roofs whilst outside our friends and neighbours are shopping or washing the car or playing football. Over the last 18 months we've lost so many of the connection points we had with the community – Refresh Café, Sparks and TOTS, CAMEO, Open the Book, weddings, BBQs. We've been separated from each other. Some of our number have passed away or drifted away. How can we possibly rebuild? But Haggai's words reach down to us through the centuries, reminding us, '*I am with you, do not fear, I will fill this house with glory.*' God is the builder. If we're faithful to him then he will rebuild us.

The Israelites rebuilt the temple with wood and stones. But the church is built of people. What does rebuilding look like for us? Paul reminds us

of the starting point: *no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ (1 Cor 3:11)*. Our life together is founded in Jesus Christ who died to make us one with him. So rebuilding the church must start with each of us continually turning to Jesus, trusting Jesus in the ups and downs of daily life.

Paul's letters also speak of building up the church:

1 Cor 14:12 – Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.

Eph 4:16 – From [Christ] the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

For Paul, building up the church is about using our gifts to build up each other in love. And I think this is so important. Before we rush to restart lots of activities we need to rebuild our fellowship. We need to rediscover what it means to be the body of Christ as we're able to gather together again. Every single one of us has a part to play in this fellowship, every single one of us can do something to build up another person, every single one of us needs the gifts that others can offer. If Jesus is the foundation then the next layer of stones is made by each of us looking at the person sitting next to us and listening to their story, laughing and weeping alongside them, offering a cup of tea, giving a word of encouragement and prayer, learning to disagree well, washing their feet. Loving each other as Christ loves us.

Does that seem a bit inward looking when the church is meant to be outward looking and missional? Perhaps it does. But the temple was meant to reveal the glory of God's presence and if we're to reveal God's presence in the world then we need to start with ourselves. Listen to Jesus:

John 13:35 – Love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 17:22 – I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one...then the world will know that you sent me.

Our love and our unity bear witness to Jesus and let God's glory shine out. As we build up each other God will continue to build – a neighbour who needs help in the garden, a colleague who needs a listening ear, a teen who needs someone to believe in them, a friend who's ready to hear good news. The new church might not look like the old one, it might look scruffy and frail, it might look like nothing. But the Lord is the builder. And the Lord says, *'be strong, all you people, be strong and work together and build each other up and love each other, for I am with you and I will fill this house with glory'*.

Hymn *All the room was hushed and still*

All the room was hushed and still
And when the bowl was filled
He stooped to wash their feet
And when it was complete, he said
This is what I'm asking you to do
This is why I'm kneeling here
beside you
This is what I want my church to be
This is what I want the world to see
Who it is you follow
Love each other, One another
Love each other, In the way that I have
loved you
Walk together, And whatever comes
Love each other, In the way that I have
loved you
Let the room be hushed and still
Let us go to where he kneels
And join him as he serves
And learn his ways of love

Creed *(We stand to declare our faith)*

**All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from
Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one
Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For
us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was
incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was
made man.**
**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered
death and was buried.**
**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the
Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right
hand of the Father.**
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers ~ Jacquie Still

Almighty and ever living God, thank you for the beauty of this new day, for this new hope and this new dawn. Enable us to make the most of your gift to us; seeking you in all our ways, serving you in all we do; meeting those who come our way with the kindness of Christ, in whose name we pray; AMEN.



Loving Lord, as we lift your world in prayer to you today, we cannot help but reflect on the ongoing trail of sadness the pandemic leaves in its wake. We continue to remember those nations whose leadership has been unconcerned or slow in preparing for its coming, for those countries whose resources are stretched or broken; for the people, whose sadness is greatest. Lord not one sparrow falls without your knowledge – please bring your comfort to the grieving and yet still healing to the suffering and peace to the dying. We pray you would give courage to all to face the new normal. In Jesus Name, we pray – AMEN.

Lord, we lift before you too those suffering as the effects of climate change continues to influence the weather we experience. For the extremes which cause heat domes, flooding, giving rise to pestilence and famine. For what poorer nations have experienced for many years is showing itself in the richer lands. We remember those who have lost so much and ask for your presence in their midst as they look to rebuild. We pray for your help in learning lessons, to see that foundations are only sure and strong if built according to your plans – we pray you would give those affected, courage to face the new normal – In Jesus Name, Amen.

Lord as we look on our nations return to a “new normal” on the 19th, we reflect on the times before Covid swept through. The former lives we lived; the freedoms we took for granted; our attitude to life. We pray that the better parts of these we may take forward into this new dawn, but we pray

you would give us hearts more thankful for the lives we lead and the freedoms we enjoy.

We pray that you would guide and show our leaders of state and faith the way as they lead the peoples of this land, just as you did in Haggai's time. You prompted them to remember the former glories, please help us to remember ours. You told them to work and said you were with them, so show us how to work into this new future and be with us. You told them Your Spirit was with them and not to fear – and as we settle into our post Brexit and pandemic world, please send your Holy Spirit afresh upon this land and please be with us to guide us and keep us on your paths in confidence and not fear as you are with us. You reminded them that all riches are yours, please bless us with the riches from your hand. You said the latter glory would be greater than then former. May you reform this nation as a nation for good under your sovereignty. Lord Jesus, we ask it in your precious name – AMEN.

Heavenly Father, the Woking which went into pandemic is not the Woking coming out of pandemic. We pray for our local authorities as they seek to lead us into this new phase, that they may have servant hearts to lead us wisely. We pray for the many organisations providing support for those who need it, that they may continue to support and be supported to help where needed. We pray for all who call this place home, that this may be a welcoming place and lives may be lived in peace without fear. We pray for local business, for their restoration and flourishing. We pray for our local churches for the uniqueness of each parish boundary and the work carried out within them; and together, the unity of purpose to make Christ know in Woking. Lord we ask for blessing and your hand upon this town, in Jesus Name – AMEN

Within our own parish bounds Lord, we give you thanks for your faithfulness to us during this time. For our ministry and pastoral teams, for all the children's and families working, for those with the skills and knowledge in IT and in the parish office who continue to keep us connected and together; for countless unsung acts of kindness and service only seen by you which have brought your comfort at just the right time. Thank you for every one of this family of faith who, just by being a faithful follower has shone a light within the parish during this time. We pause and remember for a moment those for whom life's journey is particularly hard: Eileen and Peter Bliss, Patrick Chapman, Brenda Collard, Frank Davenport, Barbara Jones, Lynda Kirk, Barbara Lanaway, Barbara Lloyd, Trevor Lloyd, Doreen McKinnon, Olive Park, Denise Randall, Joy Storkey.

Lord, may each of these know how precious they are to you, even as they need you now. May they know your nearness and perfect peace, your provision to meet all their needs. In Jesus Name, we pray – AMEN.

And as a parish, Lord, may we turn our faces towards your future with expectation and openness that we will see you do great things in this place. Perhaps we remember when robed choirs sang and pews were fuller and think of that former glory to your name. As a family of faith, help us to work together for you are with us, remind us of the promises of the past, and that your Spirit remains with us – even to be poured out abundantly on us so that we may know the hope of your calling, the riches of your glorious inheritance in the saints, and the surpassing greatness of your power to us who believe. That each one being blessed with such gifts may willingly put them at your disposal, that the latter will be greater than the former

Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer and may your name be glorified for Jesus Sake – **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Leader So we pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us
**All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
 now and for ever. Amen.**

Notices – see N&N

Hymn *442 Lord of the church*

Lord of the Church, we pray for our renewing:
Christ over all, our undivided aim;
Fire of the Spirit, burn for our enduing,
Wind of the Spirit, fan the living lame!
We turn to Christ amid our fear and failing,
The will that lacks the courage to be free,
The weary labours, all but unavailing,
To bring us nearer what a church should be.

Lord of the Church, we seek a father's blessing,
A true repentance and a faith restored,
A swift obedience and a new possessing,
Filled with the Holy Spirit of the Lord!
We turn to Christ from all our restless striving,
Unnumbered voices with a single prayer –
The living water for our souls' reviving,
In Christ to live, and love and serve and care.

Lord of the Church, we long for our uniting,
True to one calling, by one vision stirred;
One cross proclaiming and one creed reciting,
One in the truth of Jesus and His word!
So lead us on; till toil and trouble ended,
One Church triumphant one new song shall sing,
To praise His glory, risen and ascended,
Christ over all, everlasting King!

Blessing

Leader May the peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
All Amen.

Leader Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Worshipping ▶ Loving ▶ Sharing ▶ Growing

