

## Worship - Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020

### Calling Us to Encourage

Good morning everyone, and welcome to worship with the churches of Fleet URC and Beacon Hill URC. My name is Ruth Dillon and I am the minister of Fleet URC and Beacon Hill URC and I shall be leading us in worship. You are all most welcome.

Today we shall be having a live Zoom service, and this will be recorded then uploaded to YouTube and also on Twilio.

We shall also be having our monthly communion service. Please make sure you have your bread and wine ready at the appropriate point in the service.

I know I have often suggested that we are all Saints in the making; however today is the day that the churches celebrate All Saints' Day, when we remember those who have gone before

us, especially in faith. Today's service will also confirm our discipleship calling, that is to urge and encourage people whose faith may be faltering through illness, grief, unemployment, addiction... in fact the list is endless. We are privileged to welcome Nigel Poole to this service and we shall be chatting about his role in the chaplaincy at Frimley Hospital and at Aldershot Medical centre, especially during the coronavirus pandemic.

Our opening words this morning are taken from Psalm 43:

*Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause  
against an ungodly people:  
from those who are deceitful and unjust deliver me!  
For you are the God in whom I take refuge.*

*why have you cast me off?  
Why must I walk about mournfully  
because of the oppression of the  
enemy?  
O send out your light and your truth;  
let them lead me; let them bring me  
to your holy hill and to your  
dwelling.  
Then I will go to the altar of God,  
to God my exceeding joy;  
and I will praise you with the harp, O  
God, my God.*

*Why are you cast down,  
O my soul, and why are you  
disquieted within me?  
Hope in God;  
for I shall again praise him, my help  
and my God.*

Let us pause and put aside the  
distraction of the moment,

To be still before our God

To abide in the shadow of God  
To be with the God in whom we  
trust.

**Opening music**      Organ Music  
Nessie Black, Fleet URC

### **Call to worship**

Leader We are gathered here today  
around Word and word.

God, your Word lives:  
it breathes, it encourages, it  
pleads.

It urges us towards love and  
greater love.

**All**

**As we listen to your Word today,  
may we hear the words in our hearts  
that call us towards love of other,**

**self and stranger.**

Leader Your Word is an invitation  
towards an ever greater  
hospitality.

**All And so, we stand, supported  
in the living Word that always  
welcomes. Amen.**

### **Prayers of Adoration, confession and Lord's Prayer**

Now let us come to God in Prayer and  
Praise this morning, but also come  
seeking God's forgiveness for things that  
we may or may not have done this week.

Mysterious God,  
who transcends time and space,  
we know that in coming towards you,  
you came towards us first.  
So we join together and say

**May your Holy name be praised.**

You called us by name,  
bringing us deeper into you, into  
community, into love.  
Through Jesus who is our Christ and  
Redeemer  
Our discipleship flourishes as we learn to  
love,  
to encourage and befriend your people  
So we join together and say  
**May your Holy name be praised**

We thank you for the gift of your  
presence,  
your mystery, your faithfulness, your  
abundant love for us.

God of justice,  
for Justice is your name,  
in the midst of our praise,

and recognising that you call us by our names,  
names that give identity and purpose.

We have often left justice at the door –  
preferring words to action.  
Preferring compliancy to compassion  
Preferring laziness to loving.

O God, we have done wrong.  
May we pick up justice,  
and hold it in our hands as we turn back  
to you.

*In the silence Lord, we bring our own  
private prayers before you, seeking your  
words of encouragement and*

*forgiveness*

*Silence*

God in whom we live and move and  
have our being,

Your tenderness and mercy surrounding  
us,  
and making us whole again -  
restored, forgiven and free.

In your sight we are new creations,  
full of potential and vessels of love.  
Let us be  
the action you desire,  
the wisdom you crave for  
And the faithfulness you deserve.

You say to each one of us, *your sins are  
truly forgiven,*  
yet you also say these words, *come now  
and follow me.*

And now let us say the prayer that Jesus  
taught his friends to say

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done,**

**in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those that 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.**

**Readings** Now we shall hear today's readings, from Colin and Liz who attend Fleet URC. The readings are both from the New Testament **Matthew 23: 1-12** and **1 Thessalonians 2:9-13**.

### **Matthew 23: 1-12**

**1** Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, **2** "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; **3** therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they

do, for they do not practice what they teach. **4** They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them **5** They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. **6** They love to have the place of honour at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, **7** and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi.

**8** But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. **9** And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. **10** Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. **11** The greatest among you will be your servant. **12** All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

**9** You remember our labour and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. **10** You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers.

**11** As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, **12** urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. **13** We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

## Reflection ..... Calling us to urge and encourage.

Informal Interview with Nigel Poole, Chaplain at Frimley Hospital and at Aldershot Medical centre.....

Questions Nigel and I will be considering:

- What role has the 'chaplaincy' played during the coronavirus pandemic?
- How does the 'chaplaincy' encourage people in their time of anxiety and despair?
- Where have you encountered God during the coronavirus pandemic?

## Prayer (said together)

**God who made us all –  
who made us all unique,  
unrepeatable, brilliant and brave –  
help us to be brave when we're tired,  
and help us to be kind when we're**

lazy.

**Help us to do things for each other,  
so that we can remind each other  
of the brilliant ways you made us.  
Amen.**

### **Hymn: Brother, sister let me serve 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 Christ-light for you  
in the night-time 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.

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### **Communion *Invitation***

Come, just as you are - to this table.  
For this is the table of Promise.  
Where lives that are full of broken  
promises and hurt  
Are restored by Gods promise of  
commitment.

Come, just as you are - to this table  
For this is the table of Hope  
Where lives that are full of  
desperation and sorrow  
Are restored by God's promise of  
Hope

Come, just you are - to this table  
For this is the table of Love  
Where lives that only know fear and  
hatred  
Can be moulded and restored by  
God's promise of Love

Come, just as you are - to this table  
All who are seeking God's promise  
of love, hope and restoration

Come, just as you are.

### *Communion Story*

Jesus was the guest at many tables.  
He dined with the hurting, the  
doubters, the strong and the weak;

Yet he always broke bread and  
shared a meal with them.

At one meal in particular,  
he broke the bread, and said  
*"This is my body. It is broken for you  
Do this to remember me"*

Then he took a cup of wine and said  
*"This is the new relationship with  
God made possible because of my  
death.  
Drink this all of you, to remember  
me"*

### **Prayers of intercession**

*As we recall the Lord's table we are  
mindful of the pain and difficulties in our  
world today. We pray for God's people  
and bring our concerns to God.*

There is also a response. When I say  
'Lord in your mercy', can you respond by  
saying **hear our prayer.**



Today, we pray for all who feel isolated.  
for people who feel lonely  
For people who are needing to feel  
loved.  
Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who feel disappointed  
People who have experienced hospital  
cancellations,  
People whose trust has been  
manipulated  
People whose persistent questions  
have been answered by silence.  
Lord in your mercy.. **hear our prayer.**

We pray for people who yearn to be  
accepted  
People who face rejection  
People who face abuse  
People who face suffering  
Lord in your mercy  
**hear our prayer. Amen.**

*In the silence we offer our own private  
prayers to you.*

Jesus Christ, you live in us today.  
Guard us and heal us with your balm of  
Gilead.  
Restore us and strengthen your people  
we pray.

In Jesus name, **Amen**

### **Communion** *Thanksgiving*

God of Promise  
We acknowledge your presence in  
our lives

God of Hope  
We prepare our hearts for new  
experiences

God of Love  
We thank you for your love shown to  
us in Jesus Christ

Gracious God,  
Whose love created our world  
We bring you our gratitude and  
praise  
Voices strong, and hearts full of love  
for you.

And you have prepared a table for us  
A feast - full of promise, hope and  
love.  
A feast - full of forgiveness, healing  
and blessing

We thank you for the continuing  
promise of love and truth.  
We thank you for this moment in time  
and space  
We thank you for our freedom to  
worship.

God of Promise  
Send your Holy Spirit upon these  
gifts  
Be with us as we eat this bread and  
drink this wine.

Enable us to truly believe in your  
promise  
of Hope for all humanity.  
Where Justice is the lifeline of Hope;  
Hope is discovered through Love  
And Love is the binding covenant we  
have with you.

Here is the Promise of God  
Seen in the gracious gift of Jesus  
Here is the Love of God  
Seen in bread broken and wine  
shared.

Here is the Hope of God  
Seen in the resurrection of Jesus Christ

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### **Closing prayer**

May the Grace of God enrich you.  
May the Love of Jesus love enfold you.  
May the Dynamic Spirit lift you with hope  
and promise.  
until the time approaches when we see  
you face to face.

## **Blessing**

May the blessing of God that is truly beyond all human understanding be with us now and forever more. Amen

**Closing music** Organ Music  
**Nessie Black, Fleet URC**