

United Benefice of St Michael Betchworth and St Mary Buckland
SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY
SUNDAY 24 MAY 2020

The Greeting

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Collect

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Hymn - *Christ triumphant, ever reigning*



Christ triumphant, ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King!
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
hear us as we sing:
*Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.*

Word incarnate, truth revealing,
Son of Man on earth!
power and majesty concealing
by your humble birth:
Yours the glory...

Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,
victim crucified!
death is through the cross defeated,

sinners justified:
Yours the glory...

Priestly king, enthroned for ever
high in heaven above!
sin and death and hell shall never
stifle hymns of love:
Yours the glory...

So, our hearts and voices raising
through the ages long,
ceaselessly upon you gazing,
this shall be our song:
Yours the glory...

Reading: Acts 1, 6-14 - The Ascension

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Anthem: God is gone up - William Croft (1678-1727)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJfUDCob8yw>

God is gone up with a merry noise, and the Lord with the sound of the trumpet. O sing praises, sing praises unto our God. O sing praises, sing praises unto our King. For God is the King of all the earth. O sing ye praises with understanding.

[Source of text: Psalm 47, vv. 5-7]

Gospel: John 17 1-11 - ‘Jesus prays for his disciples

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work

that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

Sermon; Revd David Eaton



Prayers

Heavenly Father we come to you lifting our hearts in prayer and praise. Help us to pray simply and sincerely, unselfishly, and gratefully, remembering the needs of others as well as our own, and giving thanks for all our blessings

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our church

God our Father, we pray for your blessing to rest upon our churches in Betchworth and Buckland especially during this time of uncertainty. With the churches closed we pray for the mission of the church as we struggle financially to make ends meet, for the worship resources and fellowship to reach those who feel isolated and alone. Help us to see the kind of church you need today. Hold up before us the vision of your kingdom, help us to grasp the meaning of the gospel which you have entrusted to us, and give us grace to live by it.

Let us pray for our world

We pray for those who are less fortunate than ourselves; those who live in developing countries and countries where there is little stability. Teach us to be ever mindful of those who are weary with the relentless struggle to keep alive; for those who can never look forward to a good meal and a comfortable bed, and those who barely have the necessities of life, much less its extras.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Let us pray for our community

We pray for our villages in Betchworth and Buckland, for those who are frightened in the current climate, for those who are ill in mind, body, or spirit. Give them courage, hope and peace, and the knowledge that you are present in their weakness, pain, and suffering. We pray especially for those who have no one to help them, that in their loneliness they may know that you are with them.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Let us pray for those who have died

Heavenly Father, we pray for those whose hearts have been saddened by the death of someone close and dear to them, for members of our families who have died and whose anniversary we recall..

We light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. In the silence we lift before you those who are on our hearts today...

Jesus Christ is the light of the World, a light which no darkness can quench.

You turn our darkness into light in your light shall we see light

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

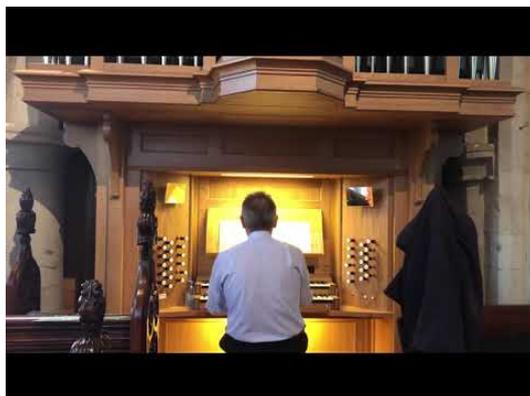
Merciful Father

**Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ
Amen**

**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.

Organ Voluntary by Melvin Hughes



We hope you are enjoying the online services which aim to bring the church community together and keep the momentum of faith alive for all generations. As a rural parish church, we rely heavily on donations to help maintain our beautiful buildings. With our churches closed we are not able to receive donations via the collection plate, however if you would still like to support the church, please use the QR code :



St Michael's Church



St Mary's Church

or alternatively you can pay direct to
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God Bless