**The Churches of St Mary, Haxby**

**and St Nicholas, Wigginton**

The United Benefice of Haxby and Wigginton

*Stepping out … with God … with each other*

*… with our local community and wider world*

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**Worship for Sunday 22nd November 2020**

**A service of Spiritual Communion for the Feast of Christ the King**

This service is produced for those worshipping with us via the website and as an audio service.

This service has been prepared by The Rector.

*Music*

*With the exception of the music below, the music on audio was recorded by Andrew Tillett on the organ at St Mary’s Haxby, and sung by the Benefice ‘virtual choir’ – either recorded remotely in their homes or socially distanced in St Mary’s Church - and edited together by Andrew Tillett.*

*The Communion setting and the hymns ‘Christ is the King! O friends rejoice’ and ‘Rejoice! the Lord is King’ are by St Martin’s Voices, recorded remotely in their homes or socially-distanced in church, and edited together.*

*The Communion Setting is the Mass of St Thomas by David Thorne (used at Wigginton).*

*Introductory music (on audio)*

*Mélodie Op. 17 no.4 Guilmant*

*You may like to light a candle, if safe to do so.*

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**Welcome**

**Opening Hymn:**

**‘Christ is the King! O friends rejoice’**

Christ is the King! O friends rejoice;

brothers and sisters with one voice

tell all the world he is your choice.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

O magnify the Lord, and raise

anthems of joy and holy praise

for Christ’s brave saints of ancient days.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

O Christian women, Christian men,

all the world over, seek again

the way disciples followed then.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Let Love’s unconquerable might

your scattered companies unite

in service to the Lord of light.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

So shall God’s will on earth be done,

new lamps be lit, new tasks be done,

and the whole world at last be one.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*(G.K.A. Bell, 1883 – 1958)*

**Greeting**

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

**Prayer of Preparation**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no

**secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Prayers of Penitence**

Jesus says, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.’ So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**O King enthroned on high,**

**filling the earth with your glory:**

**holy is your name,**

**Lord God almighty.**

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**In our sinfulness we cry to you**

**to take our guilt away,**

**and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,** **through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God’s truth, strengthen you to do God’s will and give you the joy of his kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Gloria**

Glory to God, Glory to God,

Glory to God in the highest.

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God, Glory to God,

Glory to God in the highest.

Lord Jesus Christ,

only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand

of God the Father: receive our prayer.

Glory to God, Glory to God,

Glory to God in the highest.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the

Father.

Glory to God, Glory to God,

Glory to God in the highest.

**Collect for the Feast of Christ the King**

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service,

whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory.

**Amen.**

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**Reading**

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel

### Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out.

### As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.

### I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land.  I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.

### I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God.

### I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them:

I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.  Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.  And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

*(Ezekiel 34: 11 – 16, 20 – 24)*

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn: ‘Rejoice, the Lord is king!’**

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

your Lord and King adore;

mortals give thanks and sing,

and triumph evermore.

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice,*

*Rejoice again, I say, rejoice.*

Jesus the Saviour reigns,

the God of truth and love;

when he had purged our stains,

he took his seat above. *Lift up your hearts …*

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His kingdom cannot fail;

he rules o’er earth and heaven;

the keys of death and hell

are to our Jesus giv’n. *Lift up your hearts …*

He sits at God’s right hand

till all his foes submit,

and bow to his command,

and fall beneath his feet. *Lift up your hearts …*

*(Charles Wesley, 1707 – 1788)*

**Gospel**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven.

**Alleluia.**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord**

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 

All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?

And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?  And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?”

And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome

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me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.”

Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?”  Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.”

And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

*(Matthew 25: 31 – 46, NRSV)*

This is the gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**Sermon** *by The Revd Dianne Cox*

**Affirmation of Faith**

*Let us declare our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God*

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**Intercessions**

*(Our intercessions this week have been prepared, and led on audio, by Elizabeth Moran)*

We bring our prayers to our Saviour Jesus, who is both Christ the King and the Son of Man, and who understands our needs and the needs of this world.

Holy God, we pray for your church, of which your Son is King. We know that we are in the faithful hands of the risen Christ who knows our weaknesses, tiredness and struggles and whose steadfast love endures forever. We pray that you will draw us together in the love of Christ so that we may proclaim your justice and righteousness to the world.

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

Loving Jesus, King of Justice, we pray for your world. We pray for peace, reconciliation and healing in the places of war, hatred, terrorism and disaster. We pray that the nations of this world may be united and put aside division. May their leaders be guided and influenced by your example, to govern with justice and fairness to all people.

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

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**Giving Jesus, Generous King, we thank you for our beautiful world, for the vibrant colours of autumn, for the comfort of the changing seasons. Help us to appreciate and treasure your gifts, to be worthy stewards of your world, to protect and care for all you give us.**

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

Gracious Jesus, Servant King, we pray for our friends and families both close by and further away. When we cannot be near to them in person, may we be close to them through sharing your love. Help us to know the people around us to be our brothers and sisters in Christ and to serve them as you would serve them. Nurture, feed, protect and encourage us so that we may live to do your will.

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

Healing Jesus, King of love, we pray for the many people all over the world who have contracted Covid-19.  Bring comfort to those mourning loved ones who have died and peace to those worried, fearful and uncertain as the virus spreads.  We pray for governments and authorities striving to contain and deal with the virus and those in health services risking their own lives to care for sick patients. Help us all to be responsible in the things that we do in our lives to prevent the spread of the virus by taking heed of the recommended precautions and avoiding situations which may make things worse. We pray for all who suffer, in body, mind and spirit.  Grant that they may know the presence and the power of Christ the King within them, bringing them peace and healing and bringing help and encouragement for those caring for them in their time of need.

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

Merciful Jesus, King of Glory, we raise before you all who have died and who are now with you in your glorious kingdom.  We pray for those who have died recently and also for those whose anniversary falls at this time. Bring comfort to the grieving and solace to all who mourn, enfold them in your loving arms and assure them of your presence.

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

Faithful Jesus, Almighty King, we give thanks to you for all that you do in our lives.  As the church year comes to an end, we commend to you all those for whom we have prayed throughout the year and ask that you will continue to use us and our prayers to make a difference in their lives.

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May we live by your rule of love to be the building blocks of your kingdom here on earth.

Merciful Father: **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**The Peace**

To crown all things there must be love,

to bind all together and complete the whole.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**And also with you**

**Hymn: ‘Jesus Christ is waiting’**

Jesus Christ is waiting,

waiting in the streets;

no-one is his neighbour,

all alone he eats.

Listen, Lord Jesus,

I am lonely too.

Make me, friend or stranger,

fit to wait on you.

Jesus Christ is raging,

raging in the streets,

where injustice spirals

and real hope retreats.

Listen, Lord Jesus,

I am angry too.

In the Kingdom’s causes,

let me rage with you.

Jesus Christ is healing,

healing in the streets;

curing those who suffer,

touching those he greets.

Listen, Lord Jesus,

I have pity too.

Let my care be active,

healing just like you.

Jesus Christ is dancing,

dancing in the streets,

where each sign of hatred

he, with love, defeats.

Listen, Lord Jesus,

I should triumph too.

Where good conquers evil,

let me dance with you.

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Jesus Christ is calling,

calling in the streets’

‘Who will join my journey?

I will guard their feet’.

Listen, Lord Jesus,

let my tears be few.

Walk one step before me;

I will follow you.

*John L Bell (b. 1949) &*

*Graham Maule (1958 – 2019)*

**The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here

**His Spirit is with us**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For with the oil of gladness you have anointed Christ the Lord, your only Son, to be our great high priest and king of all creation.

As priest, he offered himself once for all upon the altar of the cross and redeemed the human race by this perfect sacrifice of peace.

As king he claims dominion over all your creatures, that he may bring before your infinite majesty a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace. And so with angels and archangels and all the heavenly host, we proclaim your glory and join their unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Spiritual Communion**

*We look forward to the time when we can meet together and receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. We say together:*

**In union, blessed Jesus, when we are able to gather together to share in the breaking of bread and the prayers, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death and**

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**resurrection, for the means of grace and for the hope of glory.**

**I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament and, since I cannot at this time receive Communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

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.

Concluding Collect

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people;

that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Blessing**

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will, that you may reign with him in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Hymn: ‘Hail Redeemer, King divine’**

Hail Redeemer, King divine!

Priest and Lamb, the throne is thine

King, whose reign shall never cease,

Prince of everlasting peace.

*Angels, saints and nations sing:*

*‘Praised be Jesus Christ, our King;*

*Lord of life, earth, sky and sea.*

*King of love on Calvary.’*

King whose name creation thrills,

rule our minds, our hearts, our wills,

till in peace each nation rings

with thy praises, King of kings.

*Angels, saints and nations sing ..*

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King most holy, King of truth,

guide the lowly, guide the youth;

Christ thou King of glory bright,

be to us eternal light.

*Angels, saints and nations sing ..*

Shepherd-King, o’er mountains steep, homeward bring the wandering sheep,

shelter in one royal fold

states and kingdoms, new and old.

*Angels, saints and nations sing ..*

*(Charles Rigby, 1901 – 1962)*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen**

*Concluding Music (on audio)*

*Fugue from Organ Sonata no. 6 Mendelssohn*