



# The Benefice of Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth, Denholme Sunday 1 November 2020 All Saints' Day

## Preparation

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you

**All and also with you.**

Rejoice, people of God, praise the Lord!  
Let us keep the feast in honour of all God's saints,  
in whose victory the angels rejoice and glorify the Son of God.

We gather before the throne of God  
With countless crowds  
From every nation and race, tribe and language.

**All Blessing and glory and wisdom,  
thanksgiving and honour, power and might  
be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Prayers of Penitence

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love  
with all the saints in earth and heaven.

Knowing our unworthiness and sin,  
let us ask from him both mercy and forgiveness.

Jesus Christ, risen master and triumphant Lord,  
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,  
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength,  
and not by the power of your resurrection.  
In your mercy, forgive us.

**All Lord hear us and help us.**

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,  
as faithless and unbelieving.

In your mercy, forgive us.

**All Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived for this world alone,  
and doubted our home in heaven.

In your mercy, forgive us.

**All Lord, hear us and help us.**

May the God of love and power  
forgive us and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,  
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Gloria

**All 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.  
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 the Father:  
Receive our prayer.  
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. Amen.**

## The Collect

God of holiness,  
your glory is proclaimed in every age:  
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,  
inspire us to follow their example  
with boldness and joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**First Reading. 1 John 3: 1-3**

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God**

**Gospel reading Matthew 5: 1-12**

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

He said:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Reflection with Liz Maitland

In these difficult days, we are often having to learn to do things differently. Our lives have become filled with new challenges and we find ourselves having to 're-invent' the ways we connect with one another; the ways we mark special times and the ways we work. Whether it is online yoga classes and choir rehearsals, working from home or remembering to take a mask to the shops... No wonder we often feel tired! It's hard work, having to be so creative and adaptable!

A popular phrase these days is to 're-frame' something, i.e. to present it differently. It can be a helpful approach, especially with the things we cannot change. By re-framing these things, we can see them in a new way, even though the issues remain the same.

It strikes me that Jesus was a master at re-framing and The Beatitudes are a prime example. Each line challenges us to see something differently. Jesus *doesn't* say, 'good news! I'm putting to an end all the sadness of loss! Everything's going to be fine now!' But he does say, 'blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted.' In other words, your sadness is a reality we cannot change because someone you love is not here- but- your aching heart is open to receive God's love and the support of others. That's going to lead to blessings.

In the same way, Jesus *doesn't* say, 'The poor in spirit- oh dear- you lot have a long way to go.' Instead he says that theirs 'is the kingdom of heaven'! The poor in spirit are still lacking, but because *they know it*, God can work powerfully with them. Again, a negative picture is re-framed and looks very different, surrounded by God's love and power.

I had a little chuckle when I saw that I was to do the reflection for All Saints Day. After all, I am a non-conformist by church tradition and have a very scanty knowledge of saints! But perhaps Jesus would chuckle too and say- 'Blessed is she who knows little about saints- what a lot of great characters she has yet to meet!'

So, as we continue to feel our way through these challenging times, let us remember how Jesus re-framed difficulties to look for the positives. So, when

we find ourselves struggling, we can ask God to help us to see the potential opportunities and blessings. There are many aspects of life that we cannot change or control just now, but with God's help we can look at them differently, framed with God's love and hope.

Our greatest blessing is that we are children of God and this is something that doesn't change, even if we have to learn new ways to celebrate it... which reminds me- I must go and find out about some saints.

### Affirmation of faith

Let us affirm our faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**All I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**All I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### Prayers of Intercessions with Beverly Hurst

Glory to you, O Lord,

from the whole company of heaven,

from the saints in glory, from your people on earth.

Father, we give you thanks that in the darkness of this world your saints shine.

May we, with them, have a share in your everlasting kingdom;

through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord God, we rejoice in the fellowship of all your saints  
and we give thanks for all who have enriched  
our world and our lives by their examples.

We thank you for St Saviour, our patron saint  
and for this church in his name.

Bless all who are striving to live godly and holy lives.

We remember in your presence all who are growing in faith,  
those in zoom home groups and other worship groups.

We pray for all who feel called to be priests, deacons or teachers of the faith.

Lord we ask your blessing on our lives

that we may be the people you want us to be  
and do what you want us to do.

Lord of the saints: **strengthen our faith.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God. You have called us to a world full of good things.

In this time of the coronavirus we ask for your support in these difficult times,  
and ask for your strength and support to do the right things and behave in the  
right way, not only for ourselves but for our family, friends and neighbours.

We pray for all who care for others in all the many different settings.

We pray for those who take time to make contact with others, especially when  
so many cannot get out and about and who are lonely and afraid.

We ask your blessing on all who are struggling at this time and all who fear for  
the future.

Lord of the saints: **strengthen our faith.**

We give thanks for all who have served the world in their vocation.

We pray for all rulers across the world,  
and we remember especially, Elizabeth our Queen.

We ask your blessing and guidance on all  
who hold positions of authority  
or who influence the lives of others.

We pray for all who quietly give themselves  
in the service of the community in which they live.

Bless all who are carers and those who are an example for us to follow.

Lord of the saints: **strengthen our faith.**

We pray for all who are ill at this time.  
We pray that they will soon be fit and well.  
We ask your blessing on all those caught up in war and conflict across the world.  
For those living in camps and temporary housing who feel they have no home or place that is safe.

Lord of the saints: **strengthen our faith.**

We give thanks for all those who have served you on earth and now are at rest in your kingdom.  
We pray for friends and loved ones departed from us, asking that as they shared their love with us earth they may know your love in eternal life.  
We rejoice in the fellowship of all your saints and pray that we may share with them in your eternal kingdom.

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



**The Purple Ribbons for All Souls**

**The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised:

**All there is no end of his greatness.**

One generation shall praise your works to another

**All and shall declare your power.**

All your works praise you, Lord,

**All and your faithful servants bless you.**

They make known the glory of your kingdom

**All and speak of your power.**

My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord:

**All let everything bless his holy name for ever and ever.**

### Blessing

May God, who kindled the fire of his love in the hearts of the saints,  
pour upon you the riches of his grace.

**All Amen.**

May he give you joy in their fellowship  
and a share in their praises.

**All Amen.**

May he strengthen you to follow them in the way of holiness  
and to come to the full radiance of glory.

**All Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

### Sending Out

Following God's saints in the ways of holiness and truth,  
go in the peace of Christ.

**All Thanks be to God.**