

St Hilda's Warley Woods



**HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER
Sunday 7th July 2019 6.30pm**

Welcome to St. Hilda's Church



Over the past few days, during the Three Shires Festival, we have enjoyed a wonderful variety of music from jazz to Brahms, gypsy to folk. We have listened to children's and community choirs, organ and worship band. We have heard "The Story of the Piano", and listened to the beauty of classical guitar and the versatility of the violin.

Music is a gift from God the Creator and Giver of all gifts. It speaks to our inner souls. It expresses our longings and yearnings. It touches our emotions. It lifts us into the presence of the divine in ways that mere words cannot.

The Festival culminates in this act of worship, led by St. Hilda's Church Choir. The Holden Evening Prayer was written in 1985-1986 by Marty Haugen, while musician-in-residence at Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat centre in Washington State USA. This lovely setting of Vespers follows the traditional form while using contemporary and inclusive language.

This service concludes the Festival with a sense of peace, as we are held in the unconditional love of God, and hear the Lord's invitation to come and know him.

As you prepare for the service to begin, you may like to shut your eyes and let the music draw you into the presence of God's love and peace.

*Be still
and know
that I am
God*
-PSALM 46:10

A singing bowl will ring.

WELCOME

The congregation remain seated

Cantor: Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

All: the light no darkness can overcome;

Cantor: Stay with us now, for it is evening,

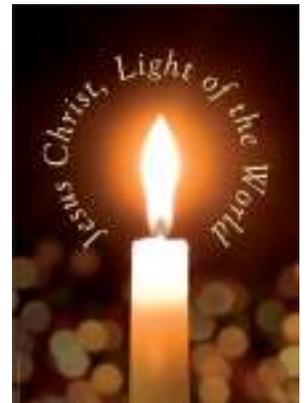
All: and the day is almost over.

Cantor: Let your light scatter the darkness,

All: and shine within your people here.

All stand, if you are able, and join in singing:

**Joyous light of heav'nly glory,
loving glow of God's own face;
you who sing creation's story,
shine on every land and race.
Now as evening falls around us,
we shall raise our songs to you,
God of daybreak, God of shadows,
come and light our hearts anew.**



**In the stars that grace the darkness,
in the blazing sun of dawn,
in the light of peace and wisdom,
we can hear your quiet song.
Love that fills the night with wonder,
love that warms the weary soul,
Love that bursts all chains asunder,
set us free and make us whole.**

**You who made the heaven's splendour,
every dancing star of night,
make us shine with gentle justice,
let us each reflect your light.
Mighty God of all creation,
gentle Christ who lights our way,
Loving Spirit of salvation,
lead us on to endless day.**

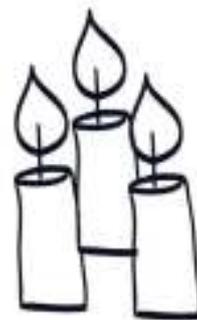
All sit

THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES

Members of the congregation will light candles as a symbol of placing ourselves into the light of Christ.

We say the following prayer together:

**This night and every night¹
grant to me light.
This night and every night
grant to me peace.
This night and every night
grant to me rest.
This night and every night
grant to me grace.
This night and every night
grant to me joy.**



¹ Prayer written by John Birch

EVENING THANKSGIVING

The congregation remain seated

Cantor: May God be with you all,

All and also with you;

Cantor: Let us sing our thanks to God,

All: It is right to give thank and praise.

Cantor: Blessed are you, Creator of the universe - from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light and the pathways, and you are light and light of all creation.

All: Amen.

Psalm 141 sung by the choir

Let my prayer rise up like incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

O God, I call to you, come to me now;

O hear my voice when I cry to you.

Let my prayer rise up like incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

Keep watch within me, God;

deep in my heart may the light of your love be burning bright.

Let my prayer rise up like incense before you,
the lifting up of my may hands as an offering to you.

All praise to the God of all - Creator of life;

all praise be to Christ and the Spirit of love.

Let my prayer rise up like incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

All remain seated

Silence for meditation

Leader: May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround us and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER
TRINITY



God our saviour,
look on this wounded world
in pity and in power;
hold us fast to your promises of peace
won for us by your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

READING: Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.



This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Silence for meditation

What are you thankful to God for this evening?

All stand, if you are able

HYMN: Common Praise 519 Make me a channel of your peace

All sit

READING: Matthew 5:1-16

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘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 receive 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 for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.

No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Silence for meditation

How might you be a peace maker?

What might you do to bring light into the world this week?

Leader: The light shines in the darkness
All: and the darkness has not overcome it.

All stand

THE ANNUNCIATION

Solo: An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favoured, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One for God most high." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."



THE MAGNIFICAT

All sing

**My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you.
You have looked with love on your servant here,
and blessed me all my life through.
Great and mighty are you, O Holy One,
strong is your kindness evermore.
How you favour the weak and lowly one,
humbling the proud of heart.**

**You have cast the mighty down from their thrones,
and uplifted the humble of heart.
You have filled the hungry with wondrous things,
and left the wealthy no part.
Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One,
strong is your justice, strong your love.
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham,
kindness for evermore.
My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you.
You have looked with love on your servant here,
and blessed me all my life through.**



The congregation sit.

LITANY AND PRAYERS

*All to sing at the end line of each prayer: **God of mercy, hold us in love***

CANTOR: In peace, in peace, we pray to you:
For peace and salvation, we pray to you:
For peace between nations, for peace between peoples:
For us who are gathered to worship and praise you:
For all of your servants who live out your gospel:
For all those who govern, that justice might guide them:
For all those who labour in service to others:
Grant weather that nourishes all of creation:
Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger:
For all the beloved who rest in your mercy:
Help us, comfort us, all our days.
Keep us, hold, gracious God.

LEADER: Great and merciful God, Source of all goodness and life,
give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will
to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

LEADER: God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray, in
our own mother tongue:

**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.**

All stand, if you are able.

HYMN: Common Praise 507 Lord of all hopefulness

During the singing of this hymn the choir will move to the chancel steps.

The congregation sit

ANTHEM: O that we might know the Lord *John Smith*

O that we might know the Lord.

Let us press on to know him
and he will surely respond to us again.

He will come to us as showers
upon a thirsty land.

He will come to us as spring rain.

He will raise us up again.

We are betrothed to him forever.

We shall live in righteousness.

He shall be as oak and terebinth.

His shade will shall be our rest.

Let us love him with a steadfast love,
a love that knows no end.

Let us offer him the grain of years.

He will wipe away our tears.

O that we might know the Lord.

Let us press on to know him
and he will surely respond to us again.

All stand

CANTOR: Let us bless our God:

All: **praise and thanks to you.**

CANTOR: May God, Creator bless us and keep us,
may Christ be ever light for our lives,
may the Spirit of Love be our guide and path,
for all our days.

All: **Amen.**



The Leader invites us all to share a sign of peace with one another.

LEADER:

‘Where two or three are gathered together in my name,’
says the Lord, ‘there am I in the midst of them.’

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: and also with you.

All are invited to share a sign of peace with one another.

The choir move to wrap around the congregation.

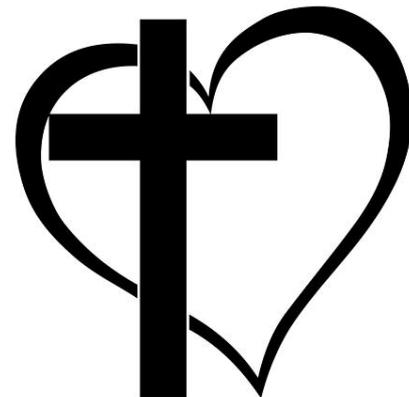
The congregation sit and the choir sings:

May God bless and keep you.²

May God’s face shine on you.

May God be kind to you
and give you peace.

The Father who loves you,
and Jesus who died for you,
the Spirit who comforts you
be in your heart.



The choir recess in silence.

May God’s peace rest with you and all you pray for. You are welcome to linger in the church after the service ends, to light a candle in the prayer corner in memory of someone, to say a quiet prayer for someone on your heart, to write the name of someone you would like us to pray for on the prayer board.

² Christopher Walker



**St Hilda's Church is open
every Wednesday and Saturday
through the year between
10am and 5pm
for peace and prayer**

If you enjoy singing, and have enjoyed listening to St. Hilda's choir this evening, then you may like to consider joining our choir and sing with us on a regular basis. Children (aged 8+) and adults are welcome. For more information or to have a chat please contact David Ellis (organist and choirmaster) on 429 6267 or 07747 045052

If you would like to donate to the ministry and mission of St. Hilda's Church there are collection plates as you leave church. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation please use the yellow envelopes.