

St Mary & St Andrew, Whittlesford Parish Church

## **A service to celebrate one thousand years of Christian Worship in Whittlesford**



*We come together as living stones to celebrate  
and remember the thousands of men and  
women who have come to this place of ancient  
stones to mourn, rejoice, wonder and worship.  
In our Church's imperfections, mistakes, re-  
pairs and restorations, we see our own lives.  
And in its persistence and beauty, we see the  
unmerited goodness of God, which is promised  
also to us.*

**Veni lumen cordium.** *Come, light of our hearts*

**OPENING PRAYER: the Lord's Prayer**

PATER noster, qui es in cœlis; sanctificetur nomen tuum: Adveniat regnum tuum; fiat voluntas tua, sicut in cœlo, et in terra. Panem nostrum cotidianum da nobis hodie: Et dimitte nobis debita nostra, sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus nostris: et ne nos inducas in tentationem: sed libera nos a malo.

**Amen**

**HYMN**

506 The Church's one foundation, verses 1,2,4,5 only.

**REPENTANCE & ABSOLUTION**

**O God, to whom every heart is open  
and every desire known,  
and whom no secret escapes,  
purify by the infusion of the Holy Spirit  
the thoughts of our heart;  
that we may merit perfectly to love  
and worthily to praise thee:  
through Christ. Amen**

† Absolution and remission of all your sins, space for true repentance, amendment of life, grace, and the consolation of the Holy Spirit, the Almighty and merciful God grant to you. **Amen**

*A translation of the Sarum Missal, used in most English Churches from the 11th century until the first Book of Common Prayer in 1549*

**The Psalm 127: 1-5**

Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep. Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

*from the King James Version, 1611*

## **HYMN**

365 Let us build a house

## **Gospel Reading: Matthew 23: 8-12**

"Don't let anyone call you 'Rabbi,' for you have only one teacher, and all of you are equal as brothers and sisters. And don't address anyone here on earth as 'Father,' for only God in heaven is your spiritual Father. And don't let anyone call you 'Teacher,' for you have only one teacher, the Messiah. The greatest among you must be a servant. But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

*New Revised Standard Version 1989*

## **SERMON What is a church?**

“Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it”

With Rev Robert Robertson [preached in Whittlesford 1794.]



*Our church is full of graffiti. Many of the symbols are religious and express the piety of the ordinary men and women of the village.... Perhaps carved out during the long sermons... Photo by Martyn Postle.*

## **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen.**

*The filioque clause [proceeds.... and the Son] was adopted by the Roman Church in 1014 and rejected by the Orthodox Church in the Great Schism. It may be omitted "on suitable ecumenical occasions" as today, when people from Ukraine may be joining us.*

## PRAYERS

For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
For ever and ever. **Amen**

We give you thanks.....  
God of Love, Ancient of Days  
Eternal giver of life  
**Hear our prayer**

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
by your incarnation you united things earthly and heavenly.  
Fill us with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill,  
that we may join the heavenly host in singing praises to your glory;  
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

*From the Gregorian Rite 6th century*

## HYMN

489 The servant king

## COMMUNION

*Book of Common Prayer 1662*

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ  
saith unto all that truly turn to him:  
all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. Matth. 11. 28.  
So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that  
all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3. 16.  
Hear also what St. Paul saith: This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to  
be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Tim. I. 15.  
Hear also what St. John saith: If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the  
Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins. 1 s.  
John 2. 1.

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

**It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

THEREFORE with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory: Glory be to thee, O Lord most High. Amen.**

**WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death, until his coming again: Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood: who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took Bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me. Likewise after supper he took the Cup; and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. **Amen.**

## **MUSIC**

Ave verum corpus during communion

## **POST COMMUNION**

*Common Worship 2000*

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## **FINAL HYMN**

**One thousand years, or so they say, Whittlesford has been here.  
One thousand years to the present day, give Whittlesford a cheer!**

1. A church was built by villagers to give to God their praise  
We gather still to worship Him and serve Him all our days.
2. Our village is a friendly place, ring out the bells to say  
Young and old are welcome here, come celebrate today.

## **BLESSING & DISMISSAL**

Christ, whose glory is in the heavens,  
fill this house and illuminate your hearts;  
and the † blessing

Like living stones, precious in his sight,  
go in peace to proclaim the mighty acts of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Why 1000 years?**

In 1922, our forebears, the then parishioners of Whittlesford, celebrated the 900th anniversary of the date they took to be that of the consecration of our Parish Church – St Andrew’s Day 1022. In truth, this must be regarded as a notional date, though we know there are pre-Norman stones in the church tower and chancel. The need for those Whittlesford residents to remember and celebrate was perhaps more rooted in their contemporary local and world history – as they emerged from the First World War and the Spanish ‘flu pandemic, and completed a programme of major restoration of the church building.

After the Black Death of 1348/9 the village and church apparently responded by building the church porch (donated c. 1350 by Henry Ciprian). The same benefactor provided for mass to be sung at the Virgin Mary’s altar (1351). In 1352, the High Altar was re-consecrated – the whole sequence of events seeming a distant, fourteenth-century echo of what took place in 1922, and what is happening now...

In 2022, we take our cue from 100 years ago, and celebrate a millennium celebrations of our church and village community. Like our forerunners, we are emerging (we hope) from a hard time, in our case the COVID-19 pandemic. We have also seen a further period of restoration of the church, which began with the opening of the Church Room in 2007 and concluded two weeks ago with the completion of the ‘Raise the Roof’ campaign, re-using the old lead from our church roof.

Lionel Ginsberg & Alasdair Coles

### **Acknowledgements and Copyright**

Common Worship: Services and prayers for the Church of England (2000) material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops’ Council 2000.