

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021 – Communion

O Lord, our Lord your greatness is seen in all the world, your praise reaches up to the heavens. Ps 8

What was old has become young again. What was weary, fresh and new once more. What was spent, given new life, and what was worn out, reborn.

But one thing remains: the Word, ancient and new, old and fresh in one moment. Our story and every story bound together in the One, the Word, the Light, the Beginning. So here and now may we begin anew. AMEN

As we meet together for the last time for a while let us reflect on the words of the 100<sup>th</sup> Psalm.

All people that on earth do dwell sing to the Lord with cheerful voice, Him serve with mirth his praise forth tell – come ye before him and rejoice. And we can rejoice because the Lord our God is good, His mercy is for ever sure. His truth at all times firmly stood and shall from age to age endure.

Father God, we begin another year with trepidation but also hope and there is a time for trepidation and a time for hope. You remind us that there is a time to proclaim Your justice and a time to work for it. A time to protest for peace and a time to live in it. Forgive us Father when we have forgotten the work you have given us to do, so caught up in the worries and concerns of our own lives. Even now begin to open our eyes to the needs around us and show us the actions which could bring justice and peace.

You tell us there is a time to speak out and a time to listen, a time to share with the world and a time to be angry at it. A time to harvest the land and a time for jubilee. Forgive us for those times when our anger has been misdirected, used to right our own perceived grievances instead of grieving over the heartache and loss within our world. Forgive us for believing we have the right to take and use whatever resources bring ease and convenience without thought to your creation and the stewardship you have placed in our hands.

There is a time to celebrate and a time to wait on you. A time to linger with your Son Jesus and a time to move on as he would have us do. Forgive us for refusing to celebrate the tiny moments of grace which bring hope and light into a dark situation, for the times when comfort and familiarity causes us to linger too long when Jesus has gently been calling us on to newness and freshness. Here and now give us the time to choose wisely, lovingly and mercifully as we join together to pray together 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 forever and ever.

AMEN

IPH 516 My times are in your hand my God I wish them there my life, my friends, my soul I leave entirely to your care.

My times are in your hand whatever they may be, pleasing or painful, dark or bright as you know best for me.

My times are in your hand why should I doubt or fear? My  
Father's hand will never cause his child a needless tear.

Go in peace, go in hope, go in joy, go in love – go into this  
new year with the assurance of Gods richest blessing through  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit – this day and always. AMEN