

The PARISH CHURCH OF  
ST. WILFRID, MOBBERLEY

# Plough Sunday SERVICE



Sunday 9th January  
2022

Plough Sunday  
January 9th 2022

Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.

HYMN

Brothers and sisters in Christ we gather today to give praise and worship to our living God, revealed to us and to all people in the babe of Bethlehem. We come to hear his word and to pray for the needs of the world. We come to ask God's blessing upon the plough and the seed that shall be planted and upon all our human labour at the start of this New Year.

The earth is the Lord's:

**And everything that is within it;**

The wide extent of the world:

**And all who live there.**

The Lord looked upon the earth:

**And filled it with his blessings.**

As long as the earth endures, seed time and harvest:

**Summer and winter will never cease.**

When farmers plough for planting, do they plough continually?

**Do they keep on breaking up and harrowing the soil?**

When they have levelled the surface,

do they not plant wheat in its place and barley in its plot?

**Their God instructs them**

**and teaches them the right way.**

We give you thanks for all your gifts:

for the world and it's resources even when we squander them;

for our families and loved ones even when we take them for granted;

for our skills and talents even when we underrate them.

Renew us through this worship, so that the praise of our daily living may find new richness and harmony to thaw the coldness around us.

In the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION

We confess our sin, and the sins of our society, in the misuse of God's creation.

God our Father, we are sorry:

When we are ungrateful for the rain, sun, frost and snow,

**And forget they are God's gifts to us;**

When we are blind to the mystery of germination

**And forget it is God's handiwork;**

When we are careless with our beasts.

**And forget they are God's creatures;**

When we are unkind to those who work with us,

**And forget they are God's children;**

When we are careless about our work.

**And forget we are God's co-workers;**

When we ill-treat the land

**And forget we are God's stewards:**

**O God, forgive us.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with heartfelt repentance and true faith turn to him: have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Collect**

Almighty God, whose will it is that the earth and the sea should bear fruit in due season: bless the labours of those who work on land and sea, grant us a good harvest and the grace always to rejoice in your fatherly care; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

***The Ministry of the Word***

The 1st Reading

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody - Psalm 148

Alleluia. Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights.

**Praise him, all you his angels; praise him, all his host.**

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you stars of light.

**Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he commanded and they were created.

**He made them fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

**Fire and hail, snow and mist, tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;**

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

**Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and birds on the wing;**

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

**Young men and women, old and young together; let them praise the name of the Lord.**

For his name only is exalted, his splendour above earth and heaven.

**He has raised up the horn of his people and praise for all his faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia.**

O glorious God, your whole creation sings your marvellous work; may heaven's praise so echo in our hearts that we may be good stewards of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Second Reading

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

THE ADDRESS

THE BLESSING OF THE PLOUGH

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord;

**Who has made heaven and earth.**

The eyes of all wait upon thee, O Lord.

**And you give them their meat in due season.**

You open your hand;

**And fill all things living with plenteousness**

O Holy Spirit, bestow upon all who till the ground wisdom to understand your laws, and to co-operate with your wise ordering of the world; and grant that the bountiful fruits of the earth may not be hoarded by the selfish or squandered by the foolish, but that all who work may share abundantly in the harvest of the soil; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you warned your disciples, having put their hand to the plough, not to look back; Bless this plough and the skill of the ploughman for the service of mankind. **Amen.**

God speed the plough and the ploughman, the farm and the farmer.  
**God speed the plough.**

God speed the plough, on hillside and in valley; on land which is rich, and on land which is poor; in countries beyond the seas, and in our homeland.

**God speed the plough.**

God speed the plough, in fair weather and in foul, in success and disappointment, in rain and wind, in frost and sunshine;

**God speed the plough.**

Almighty God, you fill the earth with your riches for the use of your children: remember the impoverishment of the nations: and on all who are in authority bestow your gifts of wisdom and goodwill, that, being lifted above self-regard, they may establish a new order, wherein the needs of all men shall be supplied; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May the ploughman's hope be fulfilled in a plentiful harvest. **Amen.**

HYMN

OUR PRAYERS

Let us Pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven**

Through our love of the countryside,  
Through our care for animals,  
Through our respect for property and tools,  
**Hallowed be your name**

On our farms and in our homes,  
In our training colleges and schools,  
Where machinery is made, and where policy is planned,  
**Your kingdom come**

By our seeking your guidance,  
By our keeping your commandments,  
By our living true to our consciences,  
**Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

For the millions who live in poverty and hunger,  
For our own needs, and the requirements of our neighbours,  
By co-operation, sympathy, and generosity,  
**Give us this day our daily bread**

Because we have broken your commandments, doing what we ought  
not to do, and neglecting what we ought to do,  
**Forgive us our trespasses**

If any have injured us by injustice, double dealing or exploitation,  
**As we forgive those who trespass against us**

When we consider doing to others what we would dislike done to us,  
When prosperity lulls us to false security, or adversity prompts us to  
despair,  
When success makes us boastful, or failure makes us bitter,  
**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil**

In the assurance of faith,  
In the confidence of hope,  
In the will to serve,  
Help us to love Christ as Lord, and our neighbours as ourselves.  
**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

### ***The Conclusion***

In winter and summer, in sunshine and in rain,  
in your ploughing, your sowing and your reaping,  
may God, who gladdens the face of the earth,  
give you joyfulness of heart,  
set your affections upon himself.  
and give you strength and the companionship;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you  
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### HYMN

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation, and bring forth the fruits  
of righteousness.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**