

**CHARLTON BENEFICE
ONLINE WORSHIP
SUNDAY 23 JULY
JUSTICE SUNDAY – WOMEN AND GIRLS
THE GATHERING**

Barbara welcomes people to worship

Introit Hymn

President In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The president greets the people

Today is a Justice Sunday

Today we'll hear the voices of those on the margins

Those who've been excluded

Those who've been judged

Those who've been terrorised

Those who've been silenced

God created human beings in his own image.

In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

President The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Pause

Barbara God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ

to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.
Let us confess our sins in penitence
and faith, firmly resolved
to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

Barbara - We confess our sins together

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light.
Amen.**

Absolution

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

The Gloria

The Collect

*The President introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray'. The Collect is said, and all respond **Amen.***

COLLECT FOR JUSTICE

Almighty God, who created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our

freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading – read by Barbara

In the book of Exodus, Jochebed puts her baby's life into God's hands by placing him in a basket in the river Nile. It's a desperate act in response to Pharaoh issuing a decree to kill all Hebrew baby boys. This is the story of Moses, Jochebed's son, who was saved by his mother and his older sister, Miriam.

Pause

Now a man from Levi's household married a Levite woman. The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that the baby was healthy and beautiful, so she hid him for three months. When she couldn't hide him any longer, she took a reed basket and sealed it up with black tar. She put the child in the basket and set the basket among the reeds at the riverbank.

Pause

Like so many mothers, Jochebed knew the pain of striving to protect her child in a world of violence. And trusted in God to help her in her desperation.

Gradual Hymn

FACTS – Pero and Gloria

The global share of women in leadership roles is only 31%

Women of the world are more likely than men to go hungry

Women own less than 20% of the world's land.

Women make up more than two-thirds of the world's 796 million illiterate people.

85% of films feature more male than female characters

Women spend more hours per day than men doing both paid and unpaid work.

Women worldwide earn less than men for equivalent work.

There are 422 statues of named men in the UK but just 88 of named women

Globally, almost one in three women have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence.

In 2020 47,000 women or girls died at the hands of an intimate partner or a family member. That's one woman or girl being killed every 11 minutes in their home somewhere in the world.

Around the world, 129 million girls are out of school.

An estimated 200 million girls and women worldwide have undergone some form of female genital mutilation – many before the age of 15.

In today's wars, women can face devastating forms of sexual violence. This form of violence is used as a tool to assert control, weaken families, carry out ethnic cleansing and to discourage resistance.

Is this how it's meant to be?

Is God OK with this?

Does God have a bias against girls and women too?

Doesn't God call us to something better?

In our gospel reading Jesus challenges the power that keeps women silenced and in chains.

GOSPEL – read by Janet

Jesus's last healing in Luke is of a woman with a disabling spirit. When the male synagogue ruler objects, Jesus calls him a hypocrite and reminds him of the woman's status as a "daughter of Abraham".

Pause

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. ¹¹And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, 'Woman, you are set free from your ailment.' ¹³When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, 'There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.' ¹⁵But the Lord answered him and said, 'You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? ¹⁶And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on

the sabbath day?' ¹⁷When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

Pause

Like so many women, this woman was invisible to the male religious authorities. But Christ notices her. The male religious authorities hold tightly to the letter of the law that would refuse her healing on the sabbath. But Christ reminds them that she is a daughter of Abraham. She too is an heir to God's promises. Jesus makes this woman visible and upholds her dignity in a male culture that would push her to the margins.

We watch 2 videos

Joe leads The Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

JOE INTRODUCES PRAYER STATIONS

On the altar in the lady chapel, on a table at the back and on the chest in the baptistry you will find lots of images of women and girls. We're invited to go to one of those places to look at them, we're invited to choose one that speaks to us, take it and return to our seat to pray with it.

You may like to:

Thank God for a woman or girl in your life

Confess ways in which you may have failed to be just to women or girls

Ask God to bring justice into a situation in the world where women or girls are being oppressed

After you've finished praying in your seat, you're invited to tie a ribbon to the cross at the place where you found your picture. Take your picture home with you to remember your prayer.

When everyone has returned.....

PRAYERS END WITH

Bless all women who daily strive to bring peace to their communities, their homes and their hearts. Give them strength to turn swords into ploughshares.

Lord hear us **Lord graciously hear us**

We pray for all women who face prejudice, inequality and gender disparities. Help us see and name discrimination against women in all the forms it may take.

Lord hear us **Lord graciously hear us**

Comfort all women who suffer from the pain of war, violence, and abuse. Help them to become instruments of their own reconciliation and peace.

Lord hear us **Lord graciously hear us**

Comfort all women who struggle in the darkness of abuse, poverty, and loneliness. May we strive to remove the burdens of shame or embarrassment.

Lord hear us **Lord graciously hear us**

We pray for all women who live in fear of their husbands, fathers, and forces that control their lives. Empower them to be their true selves through your everlasting love and faith.

Lord hear us **Lord graciously hear us**

We pray for all women who live in the despair of poverty, violence, trafficking, slavery and abuse. May the light of your love bring them hope.

Lord hear us **Lord graciously hear us**

Help us to see strength and goodness in all women and men. Transform our hearts to celebrate the love and grace of all people.

God of mercy,
**hear our prayer
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy forever.
Amen.**

THE LITURGY

OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

‘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.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

Preparation of the Table

President Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

Wise and gracious God,
you spread a table before us;
nourish your people with the word of life
and the bread of heaven.

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

President The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise

through your beloved Son Jesus Christ,
your living Word,
through whom you have created all
things; who was sent by you in your
great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit
he took flesh; as your Son,
born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us
on the cross; he put an end to death
by dying for us; and revealed
the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will
and won for you a holy people.

Short Proper Preface, when appropriate.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and *singing*:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke 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.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again

And so, Father,
calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once
for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of
praise and thanksgiving, we bring before
you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one
cup, so that we, in the company
of St Thomas, St Luke and St Richard, and
all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom,
and with whom,
and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours,
almighty Father,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

President As our Saviour taught us so we pray.

**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.**

President **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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

President We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many,
we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei

Invitation to Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Prayer before Distribution

**Most merciful Lord,
your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean,
our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit even to eat**

**the crumbs from under your table.
But you, Lord, are the God of our
salvation, and share your bread with
sinners. So cleanse and feed us with the
precious body and blood of your Son,
that he may live in us and we in him;
and that we, with the whole company of
Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom.
Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept. The Post Communion prayer is said.

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Communion hymn

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER FOR JUSTICE

Blessed God, help us, whom you have fed and satisfied in this eucharist, to hunger and thirst for what is right; help us, who here have rejoiced and been glad, to stand with those who are persecuted and reviled; help us, who here have glimpsed the life of heaven, to strive for the cause of right and for the coming of the kingdom of Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Notices

Final Responses

Creator God, thank you that we are all made in your image and equally loved by you.
Open our eyes to behold your face in those of our sisters and brothers.

As we draw near to Christ in whom we are united through faith,
Make us ready to value each other as beloved children of God.

We pray for all to follow Christ's example of treating women with equality and respect.
We pray for the dawn of a better world where justice and peace may flourish. Amen

THE BLESSING AND SENDING OUT

Please stand.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

BLESSING

May you never feel alone in the struggle for justice
May you know the support of family, friends and people
who feel passionately as you do
May you feel a part of the great cloud of witnesses who,
through the ages, did God's work and prayed for the
coming of the kingdom
May you never feel alone and, if you do, may you carry in
your heart the words of Jesus, who told his friends, 'I am
with you always'
And the blessing...

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

Final Hymn