

THE BOURNE VALLEY BENEFICE

A SERVICE OF NIGHT PRAYER

FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT YEAR B – 3RD NOVEMBER 2024

ALL SAINTS & RICHARD HOOKER

WELCOME AND OPENING RESPONSES

Welcome at this service of night prayer for All Saints Day, which, this year, falls on the day on which the Church of England also normally remembers Richard Hooker. microphones will be muted for the service, but please do join in with the words printed in bold type, and sing along with the hymns.

Richard Hooker¹

Richard Hooker was a priest and theologian who lived during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. He defended Elizabeth's settlement of the religious question of the day and had a huge influence on the development of Anglicanism. His great work was titled *Of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity* which was a careful rebuttal of the arguments of the Puritans who, in the 1580s and 1590s, were arguing forcefully for a more radical transformation of the English Church and for literal interpretations of scripture.

The Puritans acknowledged only *one* source of authority in their faith: scripture. Their literal obedience to scripture was so absolute that they considered unlawful whatever scripture did not command. Hooker points out that the words of scripture were written to address specific occasions and not as absolute rules². The Roman Catholics looked to *two* sources of authority: scripture and the traditions of the church, which they treated as equally authoritative for belief. Both Puritans and Catholics were locked in rigid belief systems that were unable to adapt and adjust to accommodate new revelations and new understandings.

¹ Based on: *Saints on Earth: A biographical companion to Common Worship* by John H Darch and Stuart K Burns; [An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church, A User Friendly Reference for Episcopalians](#), edited by Don S. Armentrout and Robert Boak Slocum; an essay by Robert Rea and other sources.

² Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity 1.14.3 and IV.11.7.

Hooker, by contrast, affirmed *three* sources of authority - scripture, tradition, and reason. He argued that Anglicanism should be rooted in both scripture and tradition as befitted a Church both Catholic and Reformed. And, as the Church was a dynamic, living institution, human reason – a gift of God – was a vital element in interpreting both scripture and tradition. So: Scripture, tradition and reason – the middle way of Anglicanism that allows for change and adjustment in the light of new understandings.

It was not only the content of Hooker's writing that was important – his moderation and civil style of argument were also remarkable in the religious atmosphere of his time.

Hooker's church career included a spell as Rector of St Andrew's, Boscombe in the Bourne Valley from 1591-95 and as sub-dean of Salisbury Cathedral. He died on 3rd November 1600.

Opening Responses

Be swift, O God, to save us.

Come quickly, Lord, to help us.

All your works praise you, O Lord,

and your faithful servants bless you.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

Hymn – For all the saints, who from their labours rest

[William Walsham How d1897]

For all the saints, who from their labours rest,

Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,

Thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their Might;

Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well fought fight;

Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of glory passes on His way.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, Alleluia!

REFLECTION, CONFESSION and RECONCILIATION

**Most merciful God,
we confess to you before the whole company of heaven
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do.
Forgive us our sins,
heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

God is merciful and just:

If we say sorry for our mistakes, He will forgive us;

If we acknowledge our failings, He will heal our weaknesses;

If we turn our lives to Him, we will find the kingdom of heaven.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 100

O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;

serve the Lord with gladness;

and come before his presence with a song.

Know that the Lord is God;

it is he that has made us and we are his;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and bless his name.

For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting,

and his faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

PSALM 145

I will exalt you, O God my King,

and bless your name for ever and ever.

Every day will I bless you

and praise your name for ever and ever.

Great is the Lord and highly to be praised;
his greatness is beyond all searching out.

**One generation shall praise your works to another
and declare your mighty acts.**

They shall speak of the majesty of your glory,
and I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

**They shall speak of the might of your marvellous acts,
and I will also tell of your greatness.**

They shall pour forth the story of your abundant kindness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

**The Lord is gracious and merciful,
long-suffering and of great goodness.**

The Lord is loving to everyone
and his mercy is over all his creatures.

**All your works praise you, O Lord,
and your faithful servants bless you.**

They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your mighty power,

**To make known to all peoples your mighty acts
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.**

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;
your dominion endures throughout all ages.

**The Lord is sure in all his words
and faithful in all his deeds.**

The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up all those who are bowed down.

**The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.**

You open wide your hand
and fill all things living with plenty.

**The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and loving in all his works.**

The Lord is near to those who call upon him,
to all who call upon him faithfully.

**He fulfils the desire of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.**

The Lord watches over those who love him,
but all the wicked shall he destroy.

**My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord,
and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever. Amen.**

READINGS

First Reading: *Ecclesiasticus 44.10-15*

But these also were godly men,
whose righteous deeds have not been forgotten;
their wealth will remain with their descendants,
and their inheritance with their children's children.
Their descendants stand by the covenants;
their children also, for their sake.
Their offspring will continue for ever,
and their glory will never be blotted out.
Their bodies are buried in peace,
but their name lives on generation after generation.
The assembly declares their wisdom,
and the congregation proclaims their praise.

A short silence is kept for reflection.

Gospel: *John 16 v12-15*

'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE HOLY ONES OF GOD

For Abraham and Sarah, our ancestors in faith,
and all who journey into the unknown trusting God's promises:
For Hannah and Ruth, and all who through love and devotion
witness to the faithfulness of God:
For Isaiah, John the Baptist and all the prophets,
and all who speak the truth without counting the cost:
Thanks be to God

For Mary the Virgin, the mother of our Lord and God,
and all who obey God's call without question:
For Andrew and John and the first disciples,
and for all who forsake everything to follow Jesus:
For Mary Magdalene, Salome and Mary,
first witnesses of the resurrection,
and for all who bear witness to Christ:
Thanks be to God

For Peter and Paul and the apostles,
who preached the gospel to Jew and Gentile,
and for all who take the good news to the ends of the earth:
For Barnabas, Silas and Timothy,
and for all who bring encouragement and steadfastness:
For the writers of the Gospels
and for all who bring the faith of Christ alive for each generation:
Thanks be to God

For Stephen, Alban, Agnes, Lucy and the whole army of martyrs,
and all who have faced death for love of Christ:
For Anselm and Richard Hooker,
and for all who reveal to us the depths of God's wisdom:
For Benedict and Francis, Hilda and Bede,
and for all who deepen our common life in Christ:
For Julian of Norwich, Bridget of Sweden and Teresa of Avila,
and for all who renew our vision of the mystery of God:

Thanks be to God
For Thomas Cranmer
and all who reform the Church of God:
For Gregory and Dunstan, George Herbert and John Keble,
and for all who praise God in poetry and song:
For Lancelot Andrewes, John Wesley and Charles Simeon,
and for all who preach the word of God:

Thanks be to God
For William Wilberforce and Josephine Butler,
and for all who work to transform the world:
For all the unsung heroes and heroines of our faith,
whose names are known to God alone:
For all those in our own lives
who have revealed to us the love of God
and shown to us the way of holiness:

Thanks be to God
Let us rejoice and praise them with thankful hearts
and glorify our God in whom they put their trust.

A longer silence is kept for reflection. You might like to reflect on the life and approach of Richard Hooker. Or you may wish to remember and celebrate those who have been an example and inspiration to you in your Christian life – saints of old, perhaps, or friends, parents or mentors who have guided you. Or something else from this evening’s readings may speak to you. Or you may wish to attend on the presence of God without words and wait for his voice in your hearts.

The Lord is near to those who call upon him,
to all who call upon him faithfully.
He fulfils the desire of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.

Amen

PRAYERS

Collects

God of holiness,
your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,
inspire us to follow their example
with boldness and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God of truth and peace,
you raised up your servant Richard Hooker in a day of bitter controversy
to defend with sound reasoning and great charity
the catholic and reformed religion:
Grant that we may maintain that middle way,
not as a compromise for the sake of peace,
but as a comprehension for the sake of truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Intercessions

Lord’s Prayer

And now together we say the prayer that Jesus gave us:

**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 them that trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen**

OFFERTORY

Please support your local church through the Parish Giving Scheme or with a one-off donation – your church treasurer will be able to help you to do this.

Offertory Hymn – *Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go*

[Charles Wesley d1788]

Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labour to pursue,
thee only, thee, resolved to know
in all I think or speak or do.

The task thy wisdom hath assigned
Oh let me cheerfully fulfill;
in all my work thy presence find,
and prove thy good and perfect will.

Thee may I set at my right hand,
whose eyes my inmost substance see,
and labour on at thy command
and offer all my work to thee.

Give me to bear thy easy yoke,
and every moment watch and pray,
and still to things eternal look
and hasten to thy glorious day.

For thee delightfully employ
whate'er thy bounteous grace hath given,
and run my course with even joy,
and closely walk with thee to heaven.

Offertory blessing

Generous Creator,
you have given us riches beyond measure.

We can return only a fraction of what we owe you;
but we ask, Lord, that you will bless all our offerings
and help us to use them wisely in your service
and for your glory. **Amen.**

CONCLUSION

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

**Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.**

**My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:
a light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn – Ye Holy Angels Bright

[Richard Baxter (1615-1691)]

Ye holy angels bright,
who wait at God's right hand,
or through the realms of light
fly at your Lord's command,
assist our song,
for else the theme
too high doth seem
for mortal tongue.

Ye blessèd souls at rest,
who ran this earthly race,
and now, from sin released,
behold the Saviour's face,
God's praises sound,
as in his sight
with sweet delight
ye do abound.

Ye saints, who toil below,
adore your heavenly King,

and onward as ye go
some joyful anthem sing;
take what he gives
and praise him still,
through good or ill,
who ever lives.

My soul, bear thou thy part,
triumph in God above,
and with a well-tuned heart
sing thou the songs of love;
let all thy days
till life shall end,
whate'er he send,
be filled with praise.

Night Prayer of St Augustine of Hippo

**Watch, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight,
and give Your Angels and Saints charge over those who sleep.**

Tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ.

Rest your weary ones.

Bless your dying ones.

Soothe your suffering ones.

Pity your afflicted ones.

Shield your joyous ones.

And all for your love's sake.

Amen.

**THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen**