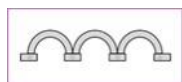


# Meon Bridge Benefice

Corhampton & Meonstoke, Droxford, Exton with Preshaw



## St Francis of Assisi (4<sup>th</sup> October 2020)



### **THE COLLECT FOR THE SOVEREIGN**

Almighty God,  
the fountain of all goodness,  
bless our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth,  
and all who are in authority under her;  
that they may order all things  
in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace,  
to the honour and glory of your name  
and the good of your Church and people;  
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.

### **A PRAYER WRITTEN BY ST FRANCIS**

May the power of your love, O Lord,  
fiery and sweet as honey,  
so absorb our hearts  
as to withdraw them from all that is under heaven.  
Grant that we may be ready  
to die for love of your love  
as you died for love of our love. Amen.

*Francis of Assisi (1226)*

### **THE COLLECT FOR THE 17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Almighty God,  
you have made us for yourself,  
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:  
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,  
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city  
where we shall see you face to face;  
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 COLLECT FOR DEDICATION SUNDAY**

Almighty God,  
to whose glory we celebrate the dedication  
of the houses of prayer of this Benefice,  
not least Corhampton Church in its 1000 year witness to you:  
we praise you for the many blessings  
you have given to those who worship you in our churches:  
and we pray that all who seek you in these places may find you,  
and, being filled with the Holy Spirit,  
may become a living temple acceptable to you;  
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 COLLECT FOR HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Eternal God,  
you crown the year with your goodness  
and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:  
grant that we may use them to your glory,  
for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being;  
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.**

## A COLLECT FOR OUR TIMES

Dear Lord  
anoint us with the Holy Spirit,  
as we share in Christ's suffering and victory  
that we may bear witness to the gospel of salvation;  
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**

## FOR ALL PRIESTS ORDAINED IN THIS DIOCESE THIS WEEKEND

With the Lord Bishop, let us pray to the Father,  
through our Great High Priest, Jesus,  
for the priests ordained this weekend,  
and among those the Revd Ruth Howlett-Shipley.

Through your Spirit, heavenly Father,  
give our newly ordained priests grace and power  
to proclaim the gospel of your salvation  
and minister the sacraments of the new covenant.

Renew them in holiness,  
and give them wisdom and discipline  
to work faithfully with those committed to their charge.

In union with their fellow servants in Christ,  
may they reconcile what is divided,  
heal what is wounded  
and restore what is lost.

May they declare your blessings to your people;  
may they proclaim Christ's victory over the powers of darkness,  
and absolve in Christ's name those who turn to him in faith;  
so shall a people made whole in Christ  
offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you,  
our God and Father,  
to whom, with the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
belong glory and honour, worship and praise, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## INTROIT HYMN

- 1 All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voices, let us sing:  
alleluia, alleluia!  
Bright brother sun with golden beams,  
clear sister moon with softer gleams,  
*Refrain.*  
*O praise him, O praise him,*  
*alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*
- 2 Swift rushing winds, so wild and strong,  
high clouds that sail in heavens along.  
O praise him, alleluia!  
New-breaking morn, in praise rejoice,  
and lights of evening, find a voice:  
*Refrain.*
- 3 Cool flowing water, pure and clear,  
make music for your Lord to hear,  
alleluia, alleluia!  
Fire, with your flames so fierce and bright,  
giving to all both warmth and light:  
*Refrain.*
- 4 Dear mother earth, who day by day  
unfolds God's blessings on our way,  
O praise him, alleluia!  
All flowers and fruits that in you grow,  
let them his glory also show:  
*Refrain.*
- 5 And all who are of tender heart,  
forgiving others, take your part,  
O praise him, alleluia!  
All who long pain and sorrow bear,  
praise God and cast on him your care:  
*Refrain.*
- 6 And you, most kind and gentle death,  
waiting to hush our final breath,  
O praise him, alleluia!  
You homeward lead the child of God,  
and Christ our Lord the way has trod:  
*Refrain.*
- 7 Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship God in humbleness,  
O praise him, alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:  
*Refrain.*

All creatures of our God and King  
William Henry Draper (1855 – 1933)  
based on the “*Cantico di Frate Sole*” of St Francis of Assisi (1182 – 1226).  
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## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world,  
that we should be holy and blameless before him in love.

Let us confess our sins and failings  
and ask him who is rich in mercy for forgiveness and peace.

## COLLECT FOR FRANCIS

O God, you ever delight to reveal yourself  
to the childlike and lowly of heart:  
grant that, following the example of the blessed Francis,  
we may count the wisdom of this world as foolishness  
and know only Jesus Christ and him crucified,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

A Reading from

*1 Kings 19.9-18*

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, <sup>9</sup>he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' <sup>10</sup>He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

<sup>11</sup>He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; <sup>12</sup>and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. <sup>13</sup>When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' <sup>14</sup>He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' <sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. <sup>16</sup>Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. <sup>17</sup>Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. <sup>18</sup>Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.'

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**



## SECOND READING

A Reading from

*Galatians 6.14-18*

<sup>14</sup>May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. <sup>15</sup>For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! <sup>16</sup>As for those who will follow this rule – peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

<sup>17</sup>From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body.

<sup>18</sup>May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL HYMN** By all your saints in warfare

- 1 By all your saints in warfare,  
For all your saints at rest,  
Your holy name, O Jesus,  
Forevermore be blest!  
For you have won the battle  
That they might wear the crown;  
And now they shine in glory  
Reflected from your throne.
- 2 For Francis, meek and humble,  
our thanks and praise are due;  
denying wealth and comfort,  
he turned and followed you.  
Embracing poor and suffering,  
the mark of Christ he bore;  
inspire us with his passion  
to love and serve you more.
- 3 Then let us praise the Father  
And worship God the Son  
And sing to God the Spirit,  
Eternal Three in One.  
Till all the ransomed number  
Fall down before the throne,  
Ascribing pow'r and glory  
And praise to God alone.

**By All Your Saints in Warfare**

Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823-1913

Earl Nelson was born in 1823, educated at Eton, and Trinity College, Cambridge. He is the nephew of Admiral Lord Nelson.

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## GOSPEL READING

*Please remain standing.*

Alleluia, alleluia.

I have called you friends, says the Lord,  
for all that I have heard from my Father  
I have made known to you.

**All Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N. (✠)

**All (✠)**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Luke 12.22-34*

<sup>22</sup>He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. <sup>23</sup>For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup>Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! <sup>25</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>26</sup>If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? <sup>27</sup>Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>28</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you – you of little faith! <sup>29</sup>And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. <sup>30</sup>For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup>Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

<sup>32</sup>Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

<sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

(✠) *At the end:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

'For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.'

There is too much to say about Francis to fit the time we have; he tried to convert unbelievers and educate the poorly informed, or at least to attain martyrdom in so doing. He started the practice of setting up a crib in church to celebrate the Nativity. He lived alongside the poorest and the outcast. He saw God in all creation. Francis died in 1226, having started a revolution and the Franciscans endure to this day.

As his story unfolds, think about the sayings of Jesus, think about his willingness to speak with lepers; think about what he said about living simply; remember 'life is more than food, and the body more than clothing', and how Francis, and his C21 followers offer us an example,

Giovanni, the son of Pietro Bernardone, a wealthy cloth merchant in Assisi, worked with his father until he was 20, by this time known by his nickname, Francesco, the French one, Francis. He was well known in Assisi for his love of parties and celebrations. In 1202, as a result of a

border dispute between Assisi and Perugia, Francis was taken prisoner and held for a year. On his release he returned to Assisi and continued his energetic way of life.

However, after a long period of illness and a further taste of army life, Francis began to grow weary of his lifestyle. He made a pilgrimage to Rome, and was greatly affected by the beggars that he met in the city. When he returned to Assisi, Francis resigned from his father's business and left his old friends behind. He stole a bag of cloth from his father and sold it, using the proceeds to repair church buildings.

When his father objected to having his goods sold without his consent, the bishop commanded Francis to repay the money. He did. He also renounced his father and gave back everything he had ever been given, even his garments. He began a life of perfect evangelical poverty, living by begging and even then only accepting the worst food that people had to give. He was never reconciled with his father.

A rich man sold everything and joined him in living next to a leper colony; a canon from a neighbouring church gave up his position and joined them also.

While working on the Church of S Damiano one morning they looked into the Gospel according to St Matthew and saw the story of the rich young man whom Jesus told to sell everything; they saw Jesus telling his disciples to take nothing with them on their journey; they saw Jesus saying that his followers must also carry his cross. Francis understood these words to be directly spoken to him.

He preached to all the love of God and the love of the created world; because, having renounced everything, he celebrated everything he received, or saw, or heard, as a gift. People soon began to join the man who by now had a reputation for simple living and charity rather than for extreme behaviour and partying.

On this basis, he formed a group of followers, who called themselves the 'Friars Minor' and they quickly developed into a religious order. The order spread, and Francis travelled. He attempted to reach Africa, but illness forced him back to Italy. He journeyed with the Crusaders, but preached a spiritual crusade rather than a physical war.

He returned to Italy, and divided his rapidly growing order into manageable districts. He appointed other people to be in charge and wrote a 'Rule of Life'. Francis resisted seeking full approval for his order from the Pope until 1223. Even though it must have seemed at once impractical and subversive, to set thousands of holy men wandering penniless round the towns and villages of Europe, the Pope was persuaded.

Because Francis was wearing an old brown garment begged from a peasant, tied round the middle with string, that became the Franciscan habit. Within ten years 5,000 men were wearing it. By the time of his death there was a men's order, a women's order (instituted by Clare) and a lay order. A hundred years later Dante was buried in it because it was more glorious than cloth of gold.

It is reported that Francis received the gift of stigmata, marks like the wounds of Christ, in 1224, and he died in 1226. Francis is known as a gentle and generous man who radically altered his life in response to God. Fully devoted to God, and fully prepared to give everything for others, his life of humility and action have led to him to be remembered as one of the most influential men of medieval times.

Most High, Glorious God,  
enlighten the darkness of our minds.  
Give us a right faith,  
a firm hope  
and a perfect charity,  
so that we may always  
and in all things



act according to Your Holy Will.

*Francis of Assisi: Vocation Prayer*

Amen

## THE PEACE

May the God of peace sanctify you:  
may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness  
that you may be blameless before him  
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with his saints.

*cf 1 Thessalonians 5.23;3.13*

**All** The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

## OFFERTORY HYMN O Lord my God

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

### *Refrain:*

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze: [*Refrain*]

3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin. [*Refrain*]

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" [*Refrain*]

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder

Carl Gustav Boberg

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## PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE **Francis**

Lord, accept the gifts we bring to your table  
on this feast of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Free us from the things that keep us from you  
and teach us to seek you as our only good.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

### POST-COMMUNION HYMN Make me a channel of Your peace

- 1 Make me a channel of Your peace  
Where there is hatred let me bring Your love;  
Where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord;  
And where there's doubt, true faith in You.

#### *Refrain*

*Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.*

- 2 Make me a channel of Your peace.  
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;  
Where there is darkness, only light;  
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

#### *Refrain*

- 3 Make me a channel of Your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
In giving to all men that we receive,  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

#### *Refrain*

### **Make me a channel of your peace**

Attrib: St. Francis of Assisi

Adapter: Sebastian Temple (1928 – 1997).

### CHANNEL OF PEACE

Sebastian Temple (1928 – 1997)

Arr by Richard M.S. Irwin.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Silence is kept.*

Merciful God,  
who gave such grace to your servant Francis  
that he served you with singleness of heart  
and loved you above all things:  
help us, whose communion with you  
has been renewed in this sacrament,  
to forsake all that holds us back from following Christ  
and to grow into his likeness from glory to glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **RECESSIONAL HYMN** Creator God, the world around

- 1 Creator God, the world around  
declares your glory — flower and tree,  
the evening sky and torrent's sound  
and mountain stream and rolling sea.  
Yet all this beauty cannot show  
a God whom we can truly know.
- 2 Composer God, all music sings  
your power, your praise, your majesty:  
in drum and trumpet, flute and strings,  
in choir and song and symphony.  
Yet music which inspires our praise  
can never fathom all your ways.
- 3 Designer God, in shape and form  
the beauty you inspire is shown;  
in line and colour, etched or drawn,  
in sculpture, painting, glass and stone.  
Yet all these talents can't express  
the full truth of your loveliness.
- 4 Mysterious God, though all the arts  
of nature and of human skill  
may move us, yet our longing hearts  
are never satisfied until  
in Jesus Christ you show your face:  
a God of love and truth and grace.

Creator God, the world around  
Brian Hoare (b. 1935)

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## **BLESSING**

*The President gives a blessing using these or other seasonal words:*

The Lord be with you  
**All and also with you.**

God give you grace to follow his saints  
in faith and hope and love;  
and the (✠) blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

*A minister says these or other seasonal words of dismissal*

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

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### Francis

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### Hymns

#### **All creatures of our God and King**

William Henry Draper (1855 – 1933)

based on the “Cantico di Frate Sole” of St Francis of Assisi (1182 – 1226).

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LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Anon but from “Geistliche Kirchengesang, Cologne (1623)”

arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958).

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#### **By All Your Saints in Warfare**

Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823-1913

Earl Nelson was born in 1823-1913, educated at Eton, and Trinity College, Cambridge. He is the nephew of Admiral Lord Nelson.

ELLACOMBE

Conrad Kocher (1786 – 1872).

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#### **O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder**

Carl Gustav Boberg

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HOW GREAT THOU ART

(O STORE GUD)

Swedish folk melody

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#### **Make me a channel of your peace**

Attrib: St. Francis of Assisi

Adapter: Sebastian Temple (1928 – 1997).

CHANNEL OF PEACE

Sebastian Temple (1928 – 1997)

Arr by Richard M.S. Irwin.

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#### **Creator God, the world around**

Brian Hoare (b. 1935)

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MELITA

John Bacchus Dykes (1823 – 1876).

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