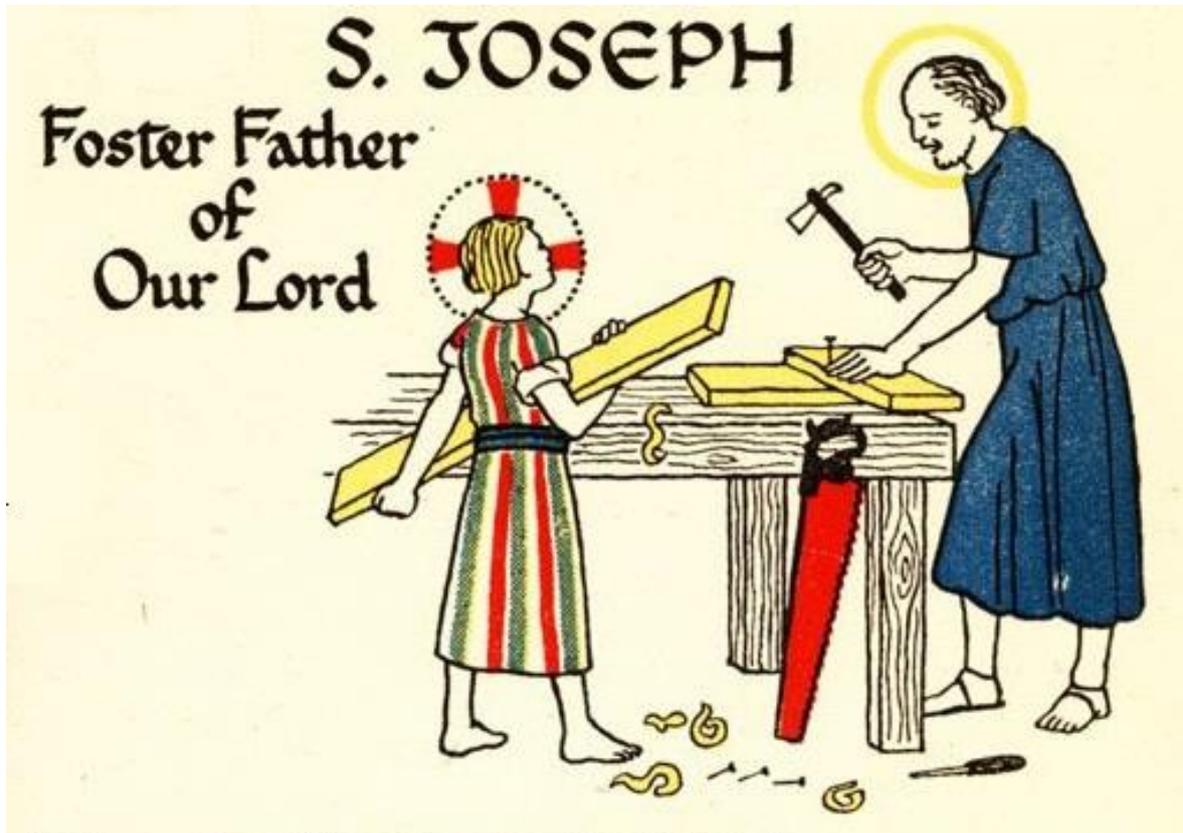


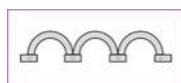
Meon Bridge Benefice

Corhampton & Meonstoke, Droxford, Exton with Preshaw



Eucharist & Spiritual Communion in Time of Pandemic

St Joseph
(19th March 2021)



INTROIT HYMN By All Thy Saints in Warfare

- 1 By all Your saints still striving,
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 We praise you, Lord, for Joseph,
True carer of your Son;
Jesus he did take to Egypt
till Herod's rage was done.
A carpenter by training,
He made Jesus a home;
Through Joseph's care and nurture
Our Father's love is known.
- 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.

Meter: 76 76 D

By All Thy Saints in Warfare

(By All Your Saints Still Striving)

Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823-1913 [Sts 1 & 3]

Gregory J. Wismar, b. 1946 [St 2]

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PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

INVITATION TO CONFESSION **Joseph**

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:
'You shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.'
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

cf Matthew 1.21

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We are truly sorry
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 grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**



The president gives absolution

THE COLLECT

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words
'Let us pray' or a more specific bidding.
The Collect is said.*

COLLECT FOR **St Joseph**

God our Father,
who from the family of your servant David
raised up Joseph the carpenter
to be the guardian of your incarnate Son
and husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary:
give us grace to follow him
in faithful obedience to your commands;
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.

LENTEN COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING **St Joseph**

A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel

⁴That same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and say to David: ⁶Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁷I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁸Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' ⁹Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ¹⁰and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹¹And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹²from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹³When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹⁴He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. ¹⁵I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. ¹⁶But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁷Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.



2 Samuel 7.4-16

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Joseph

Some verses from Psalm 89

Please join me in saying the second part of each verse of the psalm, which is emboldened on the screen

- 27 'And I will make him my firstborn: *
the most high above the kings of the earth.
- 28 'The love I have pledged to him will I keep for ever, *
and my covenant will stand fast with him.
- 29 'His seed also will I make to endure for ever *
and his throne as the days of heaven.
- 30 'But if his children forsake my law *
and cease to walk in my judgements,
- 31 'If they break my statutes *
and do not keep my commandments,
- 32 'I will punish their offences with a rod *
and their sin with scourges.
- 33 'But I will not take from him my steadfast love *
nor suffer my truth to fail.
- 34 'My covenant will I not break *
nor alter what has gone out of my lips.
- 35 'Once for all have I sworn by my holiness *
that I will not prove false to David.
- 36 'His seed shall endure for ever *
and his throne as the sun before me;

Psalm 89.27-36

SECOND READING Joseph

A Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans

¹³The promise that Abraham would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') – in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.'

Romans 4.13-18

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING **Joseph**

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house;
they will always be praising you.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *St Matthew*.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.

When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph,
but before they lived together,
she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹Her husband Joseph,

being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace,
planned to dismiss her quietly.

²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this,

an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,

‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife,
for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

²¹She will bear a son,

and you are to name him Jesus,

for he will save his people from their sins.’

²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord
through the prophet:

²³‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel’,

which means, ‘God is with us.’

²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep,

he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him;

he took her as his wife,

²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son;
and he named him Jesus.

Matthew 1.18-25

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN Lord of All Hopefulness

- 1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares can destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
- 2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
- 3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
- 4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Meter: 10.11.11.12

Lord of All Hopefulness

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SERMON ST JOSEPH

I preached about Mary, the mother of Jesus, and I had several people have said that it was the first time that they had heard a message on Mary in an Anglican church. Unfortunately, because some pre-reformation over-emphasis on Mary we have sometimes taken the pendulum too far and have undervalued her important role.

But if that is true for Mary, it may be even more so for Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus. There is not a lot a great deal of information about Joseph in the Bible. Most of what is found is in today's Gospel – hence the choice of the text.(Matthew 1:18-25).

What we discover is that Joseph was a man from whom you and I would do well to learn. That just makes sense. The man whom God would choose to bring up his Son here on earth, in his formative years, would be vital to His plan. And even though there is not a great deal of specific information, what we do find is that Joseph serves as a great God-given example.

The Bible tells us that Joseph was “a righteous man.”

To be “righteous” means doing the right things towards both God and other people. He wanted to do the right thing for his fiancé, Mary, who was found to be with child. He did not know at the time that this was by the Holy Spirit and for all of human history, there was only one explanation for this. The ‘right thing under the law was to “dismiss her”. But Joseph was also an example of sensitivity and love.

The second part of verse 19 says “being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.” I think this is an important side for us to see of

Joseph as well. Not only was he a righteous man, but he was also sensitive and caring towards Mary.

This is a good example for us, because it is often difficult to keep doing the right thing and being sensitive and caring about people in balance. It is far easier — and far more common — to rush to judgement and not care about people. But we can go the other way, and lose sight of God in our quest to show just how much we care. Either way, it is more about self than God.

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him. Joseph demonstrated his obedience to God in a number of ways:

n v25, it says, “He called His name Jesus”, just like he was told. In Matthew chapter 2, we meet him again still obeying God, when after the visit of the magi, an angel told him to get up and take Jesus and Mary to Egypt. So, as Matthew records: “Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt.”

After Herod died, Joseph was told by God to take Jesus to the regions of Galilee fulfilling the scripture that the Christ would be called a Nazarene.

If we look we soon discover in very few verses that Joseph give us the example of obedience. He listened to God and he obeyed.

He obeyed the revelation God gave. He obeyed when it was difficult or perhaps even humanly impossible, to understand. He obeyed immediately when it was very important so to do so; Had he delayed, the child Jesus may have been among Herod’s innocent victims of slaughter. Joseph is a fine biblical example to us.

An example of how to live a life of holiness and obedience towards God, and love towards other people. But, like us, Joseph needed a Saviour. So, he had every reason to celebrate, just like us, that God was sending us this Child named Jesus who will save His people from their brokenness. This Lent, let us remember Joseph’s example and let us never forget what his ‘foster son’ did to bring salvation to the world. Amen.

HYMN Joseph, Be Our Guide and Pattern

1. Joseph, be our guide and pattern,
Faithful to your sacred trust,
Strong protector of the Virgin
And the infant, Jesus Christ,
Joseph, firm and faithful, guide us,
Joseph, walk the way with us.
2. Faithful to the guiding vision,
List'ning to the angel's word;
Shielding Mary from all slander,
Guarding Christ, both Son and Lord,
Joseph, true and trusting, guide us,
Joseph, walk the way with us.
3. Leading them through many dangers
To the home in Nazareth,
Humbly for their needs providing
In your wise and steadfast faith,
Joseph, brave, obedient, guid us,
Joseph, walk the way with us.

Doxology

Laud and honour to the Father,
Laud and honour to the Son,
Laud and honour to the Spirit,

Ever Three, and ever One,
Consubstantial, co-eternal,
While unending ages run.

Meter: 87 87 87

Joseph, Be Our Guide and Pattern

Muriel Newton-White (1928-

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Verse 4: *Urbs Beata Jerusalem* (c.7th century)

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WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Henry Purcell (1659 – 1695)

Arr. Ernest Hawkins (1802- 1868)

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THE CREED

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joseph

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

CLOSING PRAYER

Silence is kept.

Heavenly Father,
whose Son grew in wisdom and stature
in the home of Joseph the carpenter in Nazareth
and on the wood of the cross
perfected the work of the world's salvation:
help us, strengthened by this sacrament of his passion,
to count the wisdom of the world as foolishness,
and to walk with him in simplicity and trust;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE PEACE

Joseph

Please stand when the President says these or other seasonal words:

Blessed are the peacemakers:
they shall be called children of God.
We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.

cf Matthew 5.19

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

BLESSING Joseph

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

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

May the love of the Holy Family surround you.

May the joy that was Mary's refresh you.

May the faithfulness that was Joseph's encourage you.

May the peace of the Christ-child fill your lives.

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.

RECESSIONAL HYMN Lift High the Cross

Refrain:

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
'til all the world adores his sacred name.*

1. Come, brethren, follow where our captain trod,
our King victorious, Christ the Son of God. *Refrain:*
2. Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine. *Refrain:*
3. Each new-born soldier of the Crucified
bears on his brow the seal of him who died. *Refrain:*
4. This is the sign which Satan's legions fear
and angels veil their faces to revere: *Refrain:*
5. Saved by the cross whereon their Lord was slain
the sons of Adam their lost home regain. *Refrain:*
6. From north and south, from east and west they raise
in growing unison their song of praise. *Refrain:*
7. O Lord once lifted on the glorious tree
as thou hast promised, draw us unto thee. *Refrain:*
8. Let every race and every language tell
of him who saves our souls from death and hell. *Refrain:*
9. From farthest regions let them homage bring
and on his cross adore their Saviour King. *Refrain:*
10. Set up thy throne, that earth's despair may cease
beneath the shadow of its healing peace. *Refrain:*
11. For thy blest cross which doth for all atone
creation's praises rise before thy throne:
*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
'til all the world adores his sacred name.*

Meter: 10 10 and Refrain

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By All Thy Saints in Warfare

(By All Your Saints Still Striving)

Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823-1913 [Sts 1 & 3]

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