

St Bene't's Church
Cambridge

A PRAYER VIGIL:

FAITH AND VISION
INTO ACTION

ENDING CORPORAL
PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN

Tuesday 23 August 2011

7.45 pm

Churches' Network for Non-violence (CNNV)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Prayer Vigil is being held during the conference: “Faith and vision into action – ending corporal punishment of children”. The Vigil is intended as an expression of respect for children and of solidarity and support for law reform to end all punitive violence against children.

The Report of the United Nations Secretary-General’s *Study on Violence against Children* (2006) calls for all countries to prohibit violent and humiliating punishment of children, including corporal punishment.

“The Study should mark a turning point – an end to adult justification of violence against children, whether accepted as ‘tradition’ or disguised as ‘discipline’. There can be no compromise in challenging violence against children.”

ST BENE’T’S CHURCH

We thank the Vicar and Churchwardens for the privilege of holding this vigil at St Bene’t’s.

“This ancient parish church is an Anglo-Saxon foundation dating from around 1020, when Canute was King of England. It is dedicated to St Benedict and has been a place of Christian worship for nearly a thousand years. Michael Ramsey, who was to become Archbishop of Canterbury, was vicar here in 1038. The church was staffed from 1945 and 2005 by the Society of St Francis, who established the pattern of daily worship following monastic practice. The congregation today continues the rhythms of common daily prayer, with a Eucharist at 8am every morning.”

The service is conducted by The Revd Roger Burne

The Cantor is Helen Orr

The Organist is

All remain seated to sing music before the service



Where charity and love are, there is God.

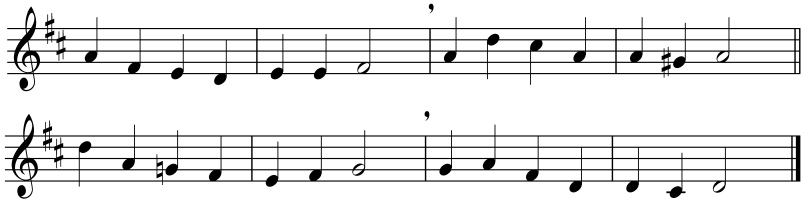


O come let us sing unto the Lord, O come let us adore him.

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand to sing

THE HYMN



1.Can the parent's tender care
cease towards the child they bear
yes, and we stand by and see
sadnesses and cruelty

2.Children trafficked, parents killed
childhood's promise unfulfilled,
children naked, poor and cold,
children who will not grow old.

3.Children can bring into life
wonder, magic and delight;
yet they need security
for their creativity.

4.God of parents, carers, friends,
teach us how to make amends;
bless our aims, forgive our wrongs,
help our children sing their songs.

Buckland 517 CP
Leighton George Hayne 1836-1883

June Boyce Tillman (b 1943)

All remain standing for:

THE GREETING

All sit:

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHILDREN

Elinor Milne

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

One more step along the world I go
One more step along the world I go
From the old things to the new
Keep me travelling along with you

*And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.*

Round the corner of the world I turn,
more and more about the world I learn;
all the new things that I see
you'll be looking at along with me:

You are older than the world can be,
you are younger than the life in me;
ever old and ever new,
keep me travelling along with you

AN ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

Let us give thanks to Almighty God for the gifts which children bring to our society, and for those who nurture and protect those gifts. And let us confess with penitence the ways in which our society has neglected or abused our children, remembering in particular, in a time of silence, those children who have suffered violence at the hands of adults, including corporal punishment.

A bell is tolled and silence is kept.

The Cantor sings:



All repeat: **Kyrie, kyrie eleison. Kyrie, kyrie eleison.**

Creator God, we thank you for the inherent dignity of children. We remember with sorrow those children who are not respected and who suffer from violence.

Kyrie, kyrie eleison. Kyrie, kyrie eleison.

We thank you for those who protect children. We remember with regret those children who are not protected and who are humiliated through abuse.

Kyrie, kyrie eleison. Kyrie, kyrie eleison.

We thank you for those who listen to children. We remember with sadness those children who have no voice, or who are not heard.

Kyrie, kyrie eleison. Kyrie, kyrie eleison.

We thank you for those who help children understand their value. We remember with sadness those children who are kept ignorant of their rights.

Kyrie, kyrie eleison. Kyrie, kyrie eleison.

We thank you for those who are called to work with children. We remember with regret those children who have not received good quality care and support.

Kyrie, kyrie eleison. Kyrie, kyrie eleison.

We thank you for those who help children who have suffered. We remember with sadness those children who have not been helped adequately or appropriately.

Kyrie, kyrie eleison. Kyrie, kyrie eleison.

We thank you for those who model non-violent ways to resolve conflict. We remember with sorrow those children who have never known justice, fairness, and compassion.

Kyrie, kyrie eleison. Kyrie, kyrie eleison.

THE ABSOLUTION:

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

In the name of God our nurturing and protecting mother and father, we commit ourselves to our children, to helping them to learn well, to discover boundaries, and to explore safely, without fear of being hit or hurt by those they trust, so that we might reflect God's gentle love for them, for us, and for all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

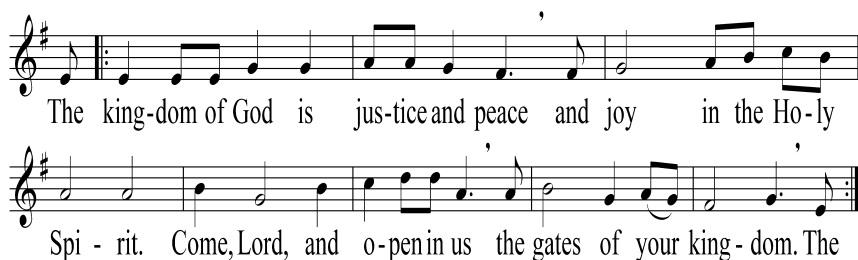
A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Exodus 2: 1-10

The Cantor sings

All stand to sing

THE GRADUAL



The king-dom of God is jus-tice and peace and joy in the Ho-ly
Spi - rit. Come, Lord, and o-pen in us the gates of your king - dom. The

All remain standing

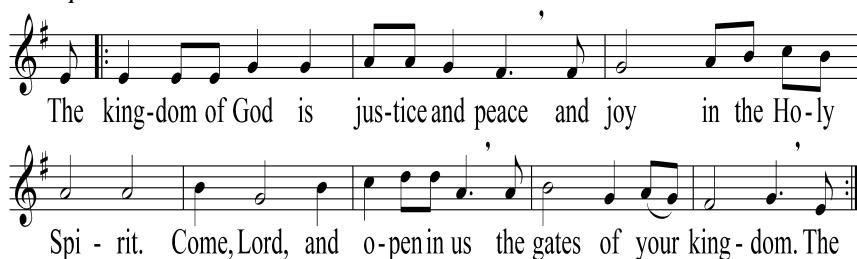
The Mayor of Cambridge, Councillor Ian Nimmo-Smith reads

THE GOSPEL

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.'

Matthew 18: 1-5; 19: 13-14 NRSV

All repeat



All sit

THE ADDRESS
The Revd Roger Burne

Representatives from organisations gather around the candle globe

All remain seated for

PRAYERS ROUND THE CANDLE GLOBE

*As we light these candles we remember children everywhere and
commit ourselves to ending legalised violence against children.*

Compassionate God

Hear our prayers for all your children who are suffering through
the unseen cruelty of others.

Look with kindness and compassion on all those who are mistreated.

When they feel abandoned, give them hope.

When they feel unloved and betrayed give them courage, comfort
and peace.

Bless all those who care for them and who work to bring them rescue
and relief,

Give us courage to speak out against all that harms the bodies and
minds of your children, so that love will triumph over fear and light
shine in the darkness.

From the prayer:

"Let your light shine in darkness",

by Martin Wharton, Bishop of Newcastle

During the lighting of the candles the following prayers are said:

We thank you God for the gift of childhood; for its own particular wisdom and for its glimpses into the wonder of our world and the promise of eternity. We pray for a society that so often steals childhood - that takes away its hopes and dreams, and does violence to the innocent. As in the manger-child, we gaze upon the face of God, so in each and every child, may we recognise the face of Christ, cherishing the miracle.

Incarnate God: hear our prayer.

Eternal God our Creator, we pray for all children and young people who endure violence in their homes. We pray that we may all work together to support the families in our communities so that all children may grow up in an atmosphere of compassion, loving-kindness, encouragement, and non-violence.

Eternal God: hear our prayer.

Merciful God, we remember all children in the world affected by the violence of poverty and armed conflict. As we pray for peace, fill us with love for all human beings so that we recognise and respect the dignity and human rights of one another. Give us grace to resolve our differences without the use of force.

Merciful God: hear our prayer.

God of love, we pray that we may promote a culture of respect for the dignity of all children and young people. Help adults to teach children by their own example and to develop mutual respect, for respect for one another is a key to non-violence.

God of compassion: **hear our prayer.**

God of justice, we pray for strength of purpose to work in solidarity towards eliminating all forms of violence against children, including corporal punishment. Give us insights to read and interpret our religious texts to promote non-violence and peace.

God of justice: **hear our prayer.**

God of peace we pray that adults will create environments where children and young people are partners with adults in speaking out, resolving conflict, and creating peace.

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God of peace: **hear our prayer.**

As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us, we are confident to pray:

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.

Solo: Helen Orr

All sit for

THE WASHING OF FEET

*We wash the feet of the children as a symbolic mark of respect
for children everywhere*

The Cantor sings

During the washing of feet we all sing:



Where charity and love are, there is God.

THE PEACE

God is love and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.

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

Members of the Congregation may greet each other with a sign of peace, most commonly a handshake.

All remain standing to sing:

THE HYMN



We sing a love that sets all people free.
That blows like wind that burns like scorching flame,
Enfolds like earth, springs up like water clear.
Come, living love, live in our hearts today.

We sing a love that seeks another's good,
That longs to serve and not to count the cost,
A love that yielding, finds itself made new.
Come caring love, live in our hearts today.

We sing a burning, fiery Holy One,
That seeks out shades of ancient bitterness.
Transfigures these as peace in every heart,
Come joyful love, live in our hearts today.

We sing a love, unflinching, unafraid
To be itself, despite another's wrath,
A love that stands alone and undismayed
Come strengthening love, live in our hearts today.

Woodlands 186 NEH

June Boyce-Tillman(b 1943)

Walter Greatorex (1877–1949)

All remain standing.

A light from the Candle Globe is passed around

THE BLESSING

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no-one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Revd Roger Burne leads the Mayor from the church

You are invited to leave with your lighted candles and gather outside the church before departing

